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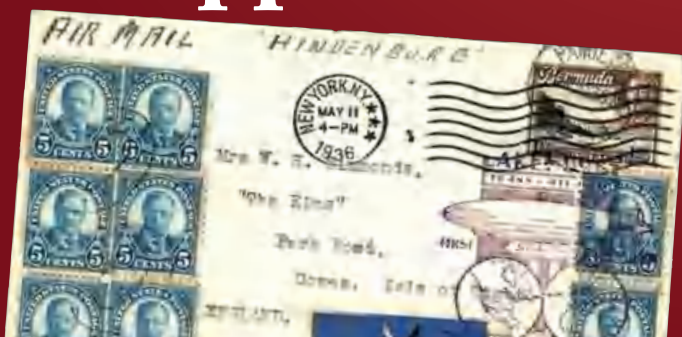
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WELCOME

This month the Queen will become Britain's longest reigning monarch, surpassing her great-great-grandmother's time on the throne, and we're marking the occasion with a special article in this issue recalling the release of the 'Wildings' definitives back in the 1950s.

Philatelically speaking the reigns of Victoria and Elizabeth II couldn't be more different. While the Victorian era witnessed the arrival of the postage stamp and saw a handful of new stamps issued over the years, the number of stamps issued during our current Queen's reign is almost impossible to calculate, making Her Majesty's portrait perhaps the most reproduced image of all time.

The challenge of choosing a favourite Queen Elizabeth II stamp is therefore quite a difficult one, but that's what we asked our experts for this issue and we received some lovely stories, including the tale of one young stamp dealer who happened upon a QEII rarity that helped him begin his career in stamps.

To coincide with our celebrations this issue comes with a free set of royalty-themed stamps, courtesy of Guernsey Post. The stamps were originally issued to mark the Queen's 85th and Prince Philip's 90th birthdays, and this year the philatelic bureau are releasing a single £10 value on behalf of Alderney, celebrating the Queen's reign. These are just some of the thousands of stamps to have been issued over the past six decades, providing we collectors with a multitude of stamp stories to share. I'd love to hear yours so why not get in touch?



Reader John Murphy chose the Machin series as his favourite QEII stamp: 'It is a simple design and yet the portrait and colour types are the most beautiful of any stamps I have ever collected or ever will.'

Matt Hill, Editor
matthewh@warnersgroup.co.uk

STAMP & COIN MART

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MEET THE EXPERTS...



Professional writer Chris West has written about many different subjects, from crime fiction through history to how to start a business. He has written two books on stamps, including *First Class: A History of Britain in 36 Postage Stamps*. His latest 'Stamp Story' is on page 59.



Author and historian Dane Garrod is a fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London, past Vice President of the National Philatelic Society, photographer of proceedings at the annual UK Philatelic Congress, and presenter of displays to local societies.



Amanda Grieve has been interested in stamps since childhood and started working for Packs & Cards while completing her PhD in Archaeology. Her latest column on GB-related philatelic collectables on is on page 28.

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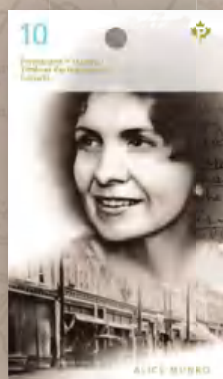
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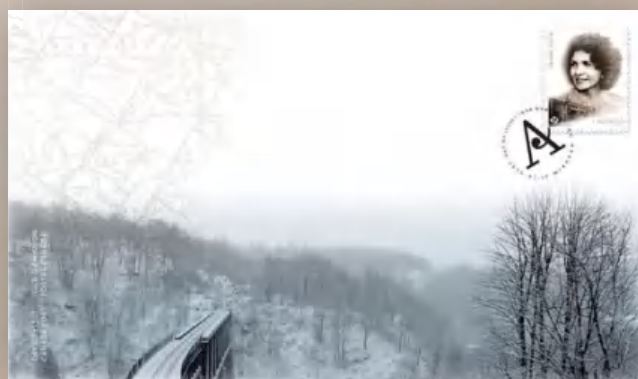


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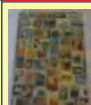
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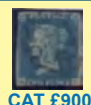


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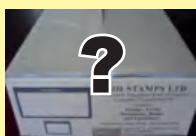
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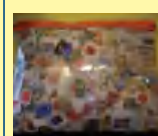


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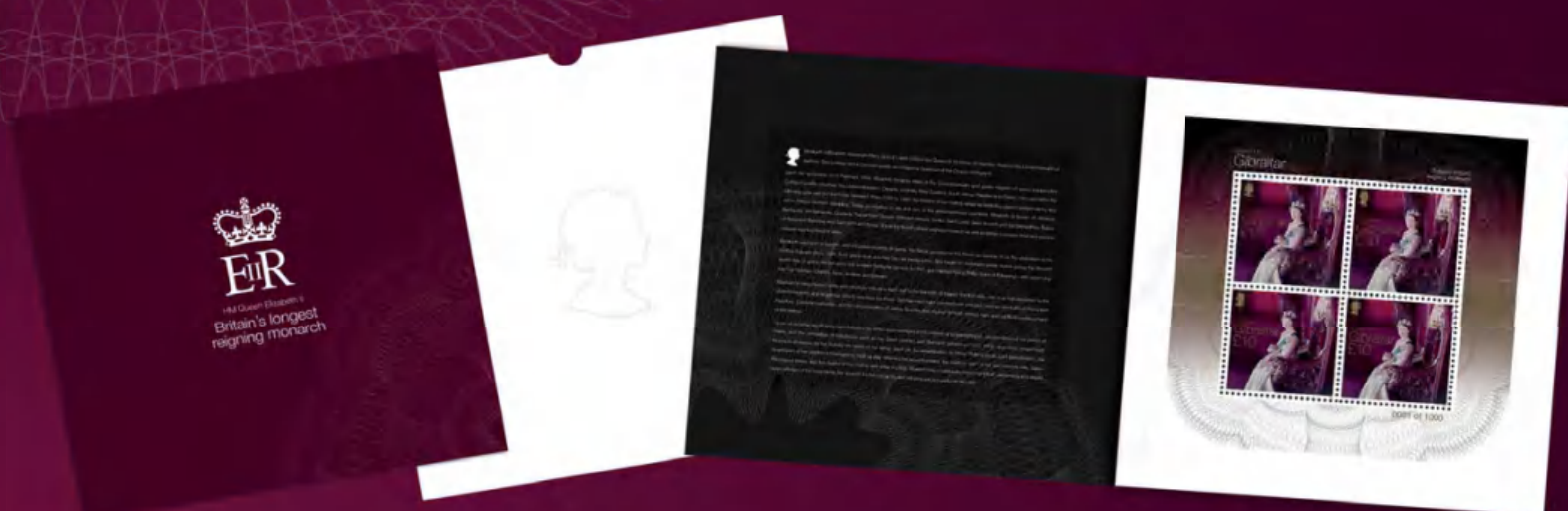
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Gibraltar Stamps

'Britain's longest reigning monarch'

HM Queen Elizabeth II will become Britain's longest reigning monarch. To celebrate such an important achievement, Gibraltar is issuing its first ever £10 stamp. A photograph by Sir Cecil Beaton (1904-1980) has been specially licensed from the Victoria and Albert Museum archives for this issue and **22ct gold has been used on the cypher, text and value**. As another first, the words 'Queen of Gibraltar' have appeared for the first time in history on a Gibraltar stamp.

A limited edition (1,000 copies) commemorative special folder with an outer sleeve featuring an embossed silhouette and cypher on either side has also been produced. It includes a sheetlet of 4 stamps not available separately but **ONLY** within the folder. **Each sheetlet is individually numbered and also printed with 22ct gold.**



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Canada Post destroys thousands of error stamps

Canada Post have been forced to withdraw and destroy thousands of recently issued UNESCO World Heritage Sites stamps following the discovery that the \$1.20 stamp shows the wrong location.

The five new stamps, which are 'part of a multi-year series showcasing UNESCO World Heritage Sites throughout Canada', included one value featuring Dinosaur Provincial Park in Alberta, but just hours after the stamps were issued, local tourism officials pointed out that the photograph showing unusual rock formations known as 'hoodoos' was actually of a different location around sixty miles away.

Canada Post officials promised to look into the matter and within three days had announced their intention to withdraw the erroneous stamp and issue a new version with the correct image. Canada Post spokeswoman Anik Losier said: 'The error was noted on the day of issue by an expert in Alberta. Immediately an investigation was launched which confirmed that indeed the photo intended to depict the hoodoos of Dinosaur Provincial Park was the wrong one (from another park, about 200 km away). Upon this confirmation, stamps and related products were removed from our online and mail order site. We recalled all products from our post office network of 6,000 stores. The stamps will be destroyed. We are currently working on a new stamp to be issued in the near future. We apologise for this unfortunate incident and any confusion it may have caused. We've also reviewed our approval processes to ensure errors of this nature do not happen in the future.'

While a reported 160,000 ten-stamp booklets, 140,000 five-stamp miniature sheets, and first-day covers featuring the sheet have been



withdrawn from sale and shredded, the exact number that had already been sent out or sold to collectors prior to the error being discovered is not known. Many collectors writing on the online forum www.stampcommunity.org explained that they had been able to buy multiple copies of the sheets, and so it is likely that the mistake will become an interesting oddity rather than a significant rarity. At the time of going to print, examples of the miniature sheet were selling for \$48 (approximately £30) on ebay, but with more than 100 of the sheets on offer, prices were beginning to drop.

Battle of Britain veterans help launch stamps

Royal Mail recently launched their Battle of Britain stamps with the help of veterans involved in the aerial battle 75 years ago.

The miniature sheet of six stamps, as previewed in the August issue of *Stamp & Coin Mart*, was officially issued on 16 July, but not before six veterans who had been involved in the Battle of Britain got to see the designs. The former servicemen posing with the stamps included Wing Commander TM Kane, who was forced to bale out of his damaged Spitfire at 6,000 feet and was picked up from the sea and captured by the Germans. He was held in several PoW camps, including Stalag Luft III, and was freed in May 1945.

Royal Mail vans based in a selection of locations close to RAF bases carried an image of a stamp from the set, while a special postmark reading '75th anniversary Battle of Britain', was used on all stamped UK mail between 16 and 18 July.

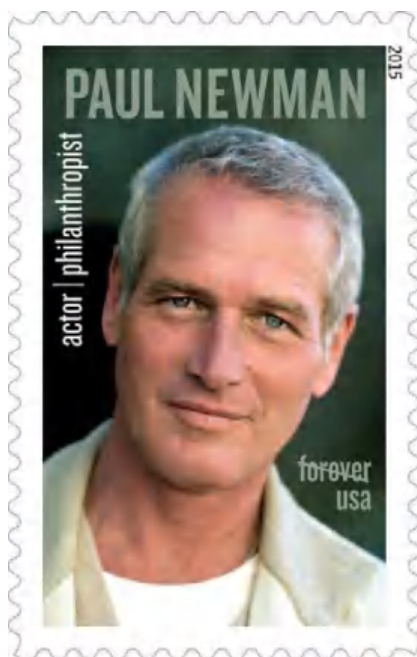
Top row (left to right): Wing Commander TF Neil DFC AFC AE, Wing Commander PC Farnes DFM, Geoffrey Harris Augustus Wellum DFC; Bottom row (left to right): Wing Commander TM Kane, Squadron Leader TG Pickering AE, Flying Officer KA Wilkinson AE



Return of the King

Elvis Presley, the 'King of Rock 'n' Roll', is the latest music legend to be featured in the USPS's Music Icons stamp series.

The Elvis stamp is the newest addition to the stamp series, launched in 2013 and



featuring musicians including Johnny Cash and Jimi Hendrix, and follows the hugely popular 29c 'Elvis' stamp issued in 1993 as part of a similar series on American musicians.

Elvis's 'king of rock 'n' roll' status is celebrated on the new 'Forever' stamp, which features a 1955 black & white photo of Elvis taken by William Speer. The bottom left corner features a small gold crown, and the words 'Forever' and 'USA'. Elvis's signature is printed in gold on the right of the stamp.

The stamp was due to be dedicated at Elvis's home and burial place Graceland mansion on 12 August by Elvis's former wife Priscilla Presley and Postmaster General Megan Brennan, as part of this year's Elvis Week celebrations which centre on Graceland and the surrounding district in Memphis.

To mark the release of its Elvis stamp, The United States Postal Service joined forces with Sony Music with an exclusive music CD to accompany the issue of the Postal Service's Elvis Presley Commemorative Forever Stamp on 12 August. The eighteen-track CD of Elvis hits, which is available at selected Post Offices across the US and also to purchase



online, includes a new performance of the Elvis song 'If I can dream', which USPS promised will be 'as you've never heard it before'.

Meanwhile, the USPS has also revealed the design of a forthcoming stamp to honour actor Paul Newman, set to be issued on 18 September.

The stamp art features photographer Steve Schapiro's 1980 photograph of Newman accompanied by text that reads 'Actor/Philanthropist.' Newman's decorated movie career featured ten Academy Award nominations, including eight for best actor, and memorable appearances in films such as *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, *Cool Hand Luke* and *The Color of Money*.

Rare GB error could fetch £10,000

A 15p stamp with the gold printing omitted (the Queen's head) is set to go under the hammer at an Edinburgh auction later this month.

Part of the 'Sports' stamp set issued in October 1980, the 15p value depicts two boxers in the ring, but unlike correct versions, the example on offer is missing the Queen's head. The stamp will be sold at the 24 August auction run by the Robert Murray Stamp Shop, with an estimate of £10,000.

The error was discovered in a presentation pack in a general UK collection and had been originally bought by the collector when it was issued in 1980. Noticing it had a misprint, he went to the Post Office and bought another normal one, put them both in his album and left them there. According to Robert Murray, only two other examples of this variety have been found. Little is known of the source of the first, but the second was also discovered in a presentation pack and was given a certificate in 1999 before being sold for £8,500 five years later.

Robert Murray said: 'It strikes me that if there had been a full sheet of these with the missing colour, we would have seen many more than just three turn up in the course of 35 years. If all examples are from the same sheet then probably all of that sheet would have been used in presentation packs, and all would have gone to collectors. I therefore guess that perhaps just a section of the sheet was missing the gold – perhaps just one row of ten. But that means there might well another seven of these still to be found!'

The auction will be held on 24 August, at 7pm, at the Stewart's-Melville Club Pavilion, 523 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DW. For more details tel: 0131 552 1220; website: www.stamp-shop.com, e-mail: murray@stamp-shop.com





Frank Walton (left), the new President of The Royal Philatelic Society London, with Chris King, the retiring President

New President at the Royal

Frank Walton has been elected as the President of The Royal Philatelic Society London, following the end of Chris King's two-year tenure.

Frank will sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists during the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain in Leeds in August, and has for many years been Editor of *The London Philatelist*, the journal of the Society. The Vice Presidents are Patrick Maselis and Richard Stock.

An RPSL spokesperson said: 'Speaking emotionally, Chris King thanked everyone for the help and support during his two years as President. It has been a time of record attendances at meetings, which have embraced a wide variety of subject matter.

'Following months of hard work and determination, Chris was able to announce that planning permission has been granted to enhance considerably the Society's home at 41 Devonshire Place, London W1, by improving accessibility, installing a lift, and increasing the space needed to accommodate the Society's world-renowned philatelic library and museum. Fittingly, a week earlier, the final display of the season had been from Chris King, showing 'Denmark and the Duchy of Schleswig'.

Competition winners

Congratulations to the following winners who won prizes in our May and June issues. The following readers won Comedy Greats presentation packs courtesy of Royal Mail: Susan Prentice, Stirling; Mr J Bradley, Rotherham; Mr P Lovesey, Louth; Keith Hatch, Maidenhead; Andrew McIver, Whitby; Stephen Morley, Nottingham; Kevin Underwood, Chatham; Harold Perry, Skelmersdale; David Chamberlain, Coalville; Cheryl Haste, Birmingham.

The following readers won Waterloo presentation packs courtesy of Royal Mail: Andy White, Isle of Wight; Daniel Hora, Worcester Park; Pamela Haigh, Walsall; Mark Brown, Telford; Norma McGill, Edinburgh; Richard Dobinson, Morpeth; L Pillay, London; Vivienne Moreno, Northolt; Stephen Cartwright, Aberlour; Barrie Bangert, Doncaster.



Postal history exhibited at York stamp show

The recent York Stamp & Coin Fair was as busy as ever with the added attraction of an Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) exhibition of postal history.

The popular event, held twice a year in the grandstand of York Racecourse, attracted hundreds of collectors all keen to browse the traders' stands offering a vast range of stamps, coins and postal history material. However, the July event also played host to a national competition organised by the ABPS, which saw collectors display postal history.

'One unusual feature was that the exhibitors were encouraged to help mount their exhibits into the frames provided. With a few extra very willing hands from local volunteers this was a success.

'The standard of entry was very high with a good proportion of first time exhibitors who were showing a range of very interesting material which the judges rightly rewarded with high level medals,' a spokesperson said, 'out of 24 entries three Large Gold and ten Gold medals were awarded. The best in show was the One Frame exhibit entitled "The Early Overseas Mail of Sydney (NSW) 1806-1850" entered by James Grimwood-Taylor FRPSL. Such was the common consensus of the success of the show that it is planned to return next July with an "All Classes" national competitive exhibition on a larger scale.'

New Poppy Post & Go stamp at BPMA

The British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA) have announced that a new Poppy design Post & Go stamp will be available from the Post & Go+ machine in the BPMA foyer, in London, from 19 October.

The Poppy design will replace the Heraldic Lion design for a period of one month around Remembrance Day. The Lion will return to the machine on 16 November. The stamp will bear the standard BPMA identifier and will be issued alongside the 1st and 2nd class Machin and Union Flag designs.

For more on Post & Go stamps see our new column on page 29.



In brief

A stamp issued in 1991 as part of the USA's 'Space Exploration' set of stamps has travelled more than 4 billion miles on NASA's *New Horizons* probe, subsequently rendering the stamp's caption 'PLUTO NOT YET EXPLORED' incorrect. At the time of the stamp issue, Pluto was still considered to be a planet rather than a 'dwarf planet' and as the stamp correctly stated, little was known about it.

The deliberate creation and distribution of a limited number of 'Upright Jenny' stamp sheets by the US Postal Service in 2013 has been criticised by the USPS Inspector General David Williams. The report stated that USPS officials 'strongly and inappropriately influenced the secondary market by creating the rarity.' The report also revealed that 23 of the 'upright' sheets had not been distributed and remained in storage in Kansas City.

Viewing for Corbitts' forthcoming 'All World' public sale has been extended to three days instead of the usual two, due to the large number of collections and boxed lots on offer. The auction will take place at Britannia Hotel, Newcastle Airport on Thursday 3rd September. The auction catalogue is available on request or online at: www.corbitts.com

Bees covers feature floral fragrance

Fdcovers.com have produced two limited edition first day covers for Royal Mail's new 'Bees' stamps, featuring a floral fragrance and available in special 'LP-sized' album.

Mark Gosling of Fdcovers said: 'This is a fabulous stand alone souvenir package. Fdcovers will be donating £1 for each cover sold to either the Bumble Bee Conservation Trust or the British Beekeepers Association. Fdcovers have also added a permanent floral fragrance to enhance the cover experience.'

The first cover features the Bumble Bee Conservation Trust's logo as the special hand stamp and includes an insert card explaining the Trust's work. The second cover depicts

represents the British Beekeepers Association and helps to promote the craft of Beekeeping and features an insert card listing local Beekeeping societies.

In another unique feature, both the covers are kept closed with magnets. The FDCs are limited to 1,000 copies and available at £21.50 and the souvenir album cover is £12. Find out more at: fdcovers.com



Kidstamps club relaunched

Kidstamps, the popular free postal club for young stamp collectors is to be re-launched following a successful appeal for a new organiser, as detailed in the August issue of *Stamp & Coin Mart*.

Alan Bretherton from Southport has agreed to take over the running of Kidstamps from September 2015. He replaces Maureen and Tim Cory who had run the club for eight years, providing starter packs and quarterly gift packs of stamps, first days covers and other philatelic items donated by collectors and dealers. Packs have been sent out to over 2,000 children in recent years and feedback has been very positive.

According to organisers one parent recently wrote: 'My son received a package from you this morning. I was astonished at what it contained! You really have been most generous. It is also refreshing to find that there are still people out there who want to share their delight in something with kids for free. Thank you very much.'

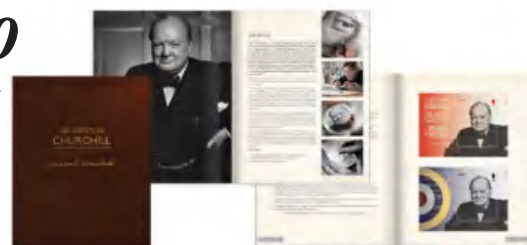
Youngsters can download an application form from the Stamp Active website (www.stampactive.co.uk). If they send the form off with a large stamp-addressed envelope they will receive the starter pack and a voucher. If they return the voucher, they will continue to receive further stamps packs and other items every three months. Donations of unwanted stamps, first day covers and other philatelic material for Kidstamps can now be sent to: KIDSTAMPS, 9 Liverpool Avenue, Southport PR8 3NE.

WIN! Churchill souvenirs, worth £60

As reported in *Stamp & Coin Mart*, Jersey Post recently issued 'Victory & Liberation' and 'The Battle of Britain' miniature sheets featuring a unique engraving of Sir Winston Churchill. A commemorative book has also been issued, containing the two intaglio miniature sheets along with an interview with the artist and engraver, Martin Morck, and additional photographs and information about Sir Winston Churchill.

Thanks to Jersey Post, we have a Winston Churchill commemorative book and two signed miniature sheet first day covers to give away in an exclusive competition. For your chance to win simply answer the following question: **Jersey Post's Victory & Liberation and The Battle of Britain stamp issues are the result of a creative collaboration between a London design agency and a renowned engraver. Can you name the design agency and the engraver?** Enter online at: www.stampandcoin.co.uk

You can also enter by post Winston Churchill Competition (SCM2079), Warners Group Publications, Fifth Floor, 31-32 Park Row, Leeds LS1 5JD. Closing date: 10 September, 2015. The winner will be picked at random from correct entries. Editor's decision is final. *Good luck!*



Magellanic Penguins on new Falklands stamps

The Falkland Islands continue their series of stamps on 'Penguins, Predators and Prey' with a new set featuring the Magellanic Penguin, the Falkland Skua, and the Falkland Sprat, issued on 21 August.

The Magellanic Penguin (*Spheniscus magellanicus*) is one of the five species which breed in the Falkland Islands. They are medium-sized penguins which grow to 70cm tall and weigh about 4 kilos. The males are slightly larger than the females. They can live up to 25 years in the wild. A spokesperson said: 'Magellanic Penguins were first encountered by Europeans about 600 miles north of the Falklands during Ferdinand Magellan's ill-fated voyage of circumnavigation in 1520.'

The four-stamp set features two photographs of the penguins,

while the Falkland Skua, a dangerous foe of the penguin, and the Falkland Sprat, which forms much of the penguins' diet, are shown on the £1 and 75p values, respectively. The stamps were designed by Tony Chater and printed by BDT International Security Printing.



Collectors visit printers



Members of the group Friends of the British Postal Museum and Archive (FBPMA) were amongst the first visitors to the new home of International Security Printers (ISP) who relocated to Wolverhampton from Walsall last year.

A spokesperson for FBPMA said: 'Paul White and Ian Brigham, joint managing directors, acted as hosts for the visit and all aspects of production were observed. There are four main areas within the print works: the print room, offering gravure and litho production; a die-cutting area for self-adhesive stamps; a philatelic bureau and fulfilment area preparing collector and retailer items, and a finishing and inspection area... All functions proved to be of great interest to this knowledgeable group of collectors.'

For FBPMA details visit: www.postalheritage.org.uk/page/friends

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Q&A: Manzoor Alam

We spoke to Dr Manzoor Alam, the newly appointed Postmaster of Sanquhar Post Office in Dumfriesshire, which holds the title of the world's oldest post office, and asked him what plans he has for the historic building

How did you find out about Sanquhar Post Office?

I am a postal historian and philatelist and so saw the news of the Post Office being for sale in the *Philatelic Bulletin*. I then realised that this was the world's oldest post office and that it was in trouble. Many post offices become connected to larger shops or supermarkets and this wasn't something I wanted to see for this post office, we would lose the heritage. Although I live in Birmingham, 250 miles away, I offered to buy Sanquhar Post Office and here I am, the proud owner of the world's oldest post office.

Will you be moving up to Scotland to run the Post Office?

I will be moving around between the two places! The building has a two-bedroom house above it and so my wife and eldest daughter will be helping to run the Post Office.

What are your plans for the Post Office?

I didn't just buy a post office, I wanted to save the heritage. Many people come from miles around to see the world's oldest post office but we do not have much to show them, so it is my ambition to open a postal museum. We have a big lawn area and between that and the main building there is a mail sorting office, so there is a considerable amount of area for us to use. The postal museum will tell the story of the postal service and how it developed. It will encourage children to learn about philately, stamp collecting and the history of the post.

What do you collect yourself?

I really go for the history, so I look for stamps with a history angle and also collect postal history. I am a member of the Scottish Postal History Society which is increasing my knowledge, and I wish to establish a philatelic society here in Sanquhar, the nearest one currently is 25 miles away.

World's oldest Post Office could become postal museum



The world's oldest post office in Sanquhar, Dumfries and Galloway, recently reopened thanks to the hard work of a keen philatelist and postal historian who is now serving postmaster and planning to open a postal museum on the premises.

Recognised by the Universal Postal Union and the Guinness Book of World Records as the oldest post office in the world, the Sanquhar Post Office dates back to 1712. The building started out as a staging post for mail carriages, owned by Abraham Crichton, with the old stables behind the branch thought to have once provided a resting place for horses drawing the mail carriages.

The future of the post office was uncertain following the news in 2014 that it was to be sold by owners Penny and Richard Murphy, but now Dr Manzoor Alam has purchased the property, becoming the sixteenth Sanquhar Postmaster.

Dr Alam said: 'I am very pleased to be appointed the new postmaster of Sanquhar Post Office and proud to be preserving the heritage of this post office, which has been here for more than 300 years. The post office provides vital products and services to the residents of Sanquhar, and is also a key part of Scotland's postal history. My ambition is to promote the rich heritage of the past by establishing a postal museum – the only one in Scotland – and combining it with a modern business, securing this wonderful post office for future generations. I also have plans to set up a philatelic society in Sanquhar.'

While collectors will be keen to visit the historic attraction, locals will still be able to use the post office as it becomes the 2,000th 'Post Office Local' branch as part of a major investment programme. Anne Clark, Area Manager for Scotland and the North of England, said: 'We are delighted that Sanquhar Post Office is continuing to operate at the heart of the local community. The branch combines a rich postal history with today's wide range of post office services, and we are delighted that Dr Alam is opening today as the new postmaster.'

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THE BRITISH POSTAL MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

Our regular update from the British Postal Museum & Archive as it works to open The Postal Museum in 2016



Battle on stamps

Fifty years ago stamps were issued to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. Most of the designs were by David Gentleman, who was at the forefront of the revolution in stamp design in the mid-1960s.

As part of this revolution, Gentleman had proposed a series of innovations in stamp-issuing policy to the new Postmaster General, Tony Benn. These included expanding the number of themes, having set-tenant designs and the bold idea of removing the Queen's head from stamps. All these came together with the Battle of Britain stamps where, in a block of six essays, only one incorporated the Queen's head.

These unissued Battle of Britain stamps, revealing an important moment in our philatelic history, are just a glimpse of the stories that will be told within the galleries of The Postal Museum when it opens next year. The museum will explore the impact of the British postal service on social and cultural change, engaging visitors of all ages with remarkable stories of ingenuity and innovation, such as the revolution in stamp design started by David Gentleman and Tony Benn.

Young people will make up a significant proportion of these visitors. Whether they come with their families, or as part of organised school groups, they will discover the stories of how the postal service changed the world and be introduced to the fascinating subject of postal history, as well as exploring themes such as history, geography and design. This engagement will not only come from visits to the galleries, but also the extensive outreach programme to be delivered, allowing us to bring these ideas to life for more people than ever before.

Over the next year or so, as we move towards opening, we'll keep you updated on our plans to deliver this inspirational new museum. In the meantime, if you would like to get involved in this exciting project, and help introduce more young people to philately, then please visit www.postalheritage.org.uk/support

Events & exhibitions



17 September, 6.30pm-7.30pm

Miniature Posters: the stamp designs of Abram Games with Naomi Games

Best known as a poster artist for the likes of London Transport, Guinness and BOAC, and an official War Poster Artist during the Second World War, Abram Games' name is synonymous with groundbreaking design. But less well known is Games' work as a stamp designer, designing for Britain, Jersey and Israel. At this talk, Abram's daughter Naomi reveals this lesser-known area of his work, his working processes and progressive sketches from his archive. BPMA, Phoenix Centre, Phoenix Place, London, WC1X 0DL.

2 September 1pm-3pm

Museum Store Tour

Join us on a curator-led behind the scenes tour for a walk through hundreds of years of British social history, and get up close to some of our most iconic objects. Visits include two 30-minute curator-led tours, complimentary refreshments and an opportunity to explore the collection at your leisure. Unit 7, Imprimo Park, Debden Industrial Estate, Lenthall Road, Loughton, Essex, IG10 3UF. Admission: £3, £2.50 concessions (60+) and free for accompanied children under 12 years old

8 July to 27 September

Pop it in the Post: Your World at the end of the Street – Bruce Castle Museum, Tottenham

At this family-friendly exhibition discover the story of the letter writing revolution, enabled by the world's first ever stamp, and the UK's first pillar boxes. Meet the individuals who made this possible, and understand how millions of people's lives were changed. The world was now available to everyone – simply through the pillar box at the end of your street.



For opening times or to book tickets to the Store Tour visit www.postalheritage.org.uk



A used example of the famous 1968 Chinese stamp 'Whole Country is Red' was recently sold by InterAsia Auctions in Hong Kong for a record price of HK\$483,000. The famous stamp was withdrawn since it featured a number of geographical inaccuracies, not least the fact that Taiwan is shown in white, rather than the red of the People's Republic of China. With a partial circular date stamp at the upper right, the stamp boasted brilliant colours and a 'very fine and fresh appearance'. In the same sale, a mint block of four of the stamp realised HK\$3,450,000 (approximately £286,117), proving that China's stamps are still commanding high prices.

SOLD FOR £40,056



A set of five imperforate plate proofs of Canada's 1935 Silver Jubilee issue, in interpanneau blocks of eight affixed to card of the same size, was recently sold at Spink. The auction house described the lot as a 'very rare set with only two sheets of such proofs printed, giving a maximum of sixteen such blocks'.

SOLD FOR £3,200

A cover carried on Amelia Earhart's solo flight from Mexico City to New York, addressed to Whitfield King & Co., Ipswich, England, recently sold at Cherrystone Philatelic Auctioneers in New York. Franked with a 20c Mexican 'Eagleman' stamp overprinted 'Amelia Earhart Vuelo de Buena Voluntad Mexico 1935' and an additional 40c value, tied by a 2 May, 1935 cds, the cover was one of just forty carried on the flight.

SOLD FOR £4,816

Latest auction results



A set of three rare Victoria revenue stamps recently grabbed attention at the David Feldman summer auction. The series of three stamps of £25, £50 and £100 denominations realised a grand total of £192,000. A spokesperson said: 'Such was their rarity, they were as yet unpriced by Stanley Gibbons – a fact that the SG catalogue editor is sure to rectify in their next edition!' Included in the offering was an 1886-96 Stamp Duty £100 crimson perf 12½ upright wmk.33, mint with only corner of selvedge missing. Described as 'very fine and extremely rare especially with original gum' only one unused example is known in private hands.

SOLD FOR £80,000



Internet auctions



Your quick reference price guide to recent internet sales,
in association with delcampe.net



SOLD FOR: £1,741

France 1 franc vermillon 1849 used and repaired (with certif.)



SOLD FOR: £222

Kind Edward VII Land one penny 1908 MLH



SOLD FOR: £696

French Colony Castelorizzo pair of 20c brown-lilas with one inverted overprint. MH (signed)



SOLD FOR: £1,256

Italy 'Floreale 40 cent' brown 1901 MNH (with cert.)

The Philatelic Collector's Series Sale at Spink saw a variety of material go under the hammer, including a vertical pair of imperforate Great Britain, 2002 Europa 'Circus' 1st Class values.

SOLD FOR £1,500



An entire sent in April 1841 to Ireland was recently sold at David Feldman. The letter featured a 1d black stamp from plate 8, tied with a black Maltese Cross cancel, the written words 'Registered Letter', a boxed 'PAID AT / LIVERPOOL' date stamp, and an Antrim arrival back stamp. The lot was described as 'a very fine and very rare penny black registered cover with less than a dozen known'.

SOLD FOR £17,000



SOLD FOR £773

French Ivory Coast letter from Assinie to Paris by Bordeaux 1892



SOLD FOR £870

Spain unstamped diplomatic mail from Barcelona to Buenos Aires. Maritime mail by French Ship Savoie 1878



SOLD FOR £593

Addressed mailing label on a fragment of paper mixed franking Gent PP 1867 - very rare!



SOLD FOR £392

Cape of Good Hope 1861 4D pale milky blue used

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WORLD VIEW *Special service*



There are many types of special service stamps – stamps that indicate a different kind of postal service than traditional, straightforward first class postage. Differing countries have differing attitudes towards special services and their stamps. Most countries issue stamps to distinguish official postage or newspapers or Postage Dues, but not all countries issue stamps for, say, Marine Insurance, as Holland does.



The scarcest Canadian registration stamp is the five cent blue and it is a beautifully engraved stamp

Initially, special services formed no part of stamp issuing. Rowland Hill's initial plan called for only one special service stamp, an Official. By the latter part of the 19th century, the postal technology changes that stamps facilitated had made numerous different classes and types of service possible and users were clamouring for a way to send and account for valuable items sent through the mail.

Registration was an innovation that allowed this and for the first time banks could send currency and people could send items of value through the mail. The cost of this service was steep, initially four times the first class postage rate in the United States. Canada had cheaper registration but issued several stamps, as the amount of postage required depended on the value being sent. The scarcest Canadian registration stamp is the five cent blue and it is a beautifully engraved stamp. Nice copies are rare.

John Apfelbaum has spent a lifetime learning about stamp collecting. He runs the venerable firm of stamp professionals Earl PL Apfelbaum, a business that has dealt in only stamps since 1901 and which was founded by his great grandfather. He can be reached at jda2006@aol.com

The Fleischmann Family Collection of United States Revenue Issues, Private Die Proprietaries and Telegraph Stamps recently went under the hammer at Daniel F Kelleher Auctions. A spokesperson for the US-based auction house said: 'These historically important stamps were issued when the United States had no Federal Income Tax and the extraordinary demands of the Civil War upon the Federal Treasury resulted in Congress devising and passing the Revenue Act of 1862.' Highlights included a North American Telegraph Co., 1907, green, which was described as 'an extraordinary example of the exceedingly rare 1907 North American Telegraph Co. stamp.'



SOLD FOR £1,405



The recent Sajal Philatelics Cover Auctions sale included 1973 Inigo Jones with a New Fetter Lane circular date stamp easily exceeded the catalogue value of £350.

SOLD FOR £525

A USA 1857 5c brick red was amongst the highlights at Cherrystone sale of the Confino Family collection.



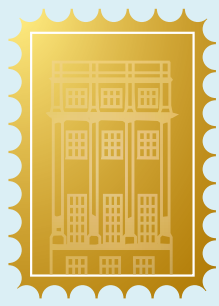
SOLD FOR £16,918

The lightly hinged stamp boasted 'original gum, usual centring, beautiful colour,' and was described as 'a fresh and fine example of this rare stamp in completely sound condition.' According to the auction house approximately twenty stamps with original gum have been

documented, of those, about half had perfs touching on two sides or were deeply cut into on one side. Almost two-thirds have small faults or stains. In the same auction a vertical block of two USA 1908 5c blues, one of 'less than eighty genuine pairs' thought to exist sold for \$26,450.



SOLD FOR £22,068



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13 all QV from 1885 (March) 1d.,
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38 all QV from 1862 1d, 6d (FU)
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surcharges, 1883 to 1/=, 1887 1d
tete-beche (FU) etc Cat £1700
£195.00

LEEWARD ISLANDS

76 with a few QV, K.Ed to 2/6,
KG5 to 1/=, KG6 to 2/=, QE set to
\$4.80 Cat £460 £75.00

MALAYAN AREA

100's on hagners, a fascinating
range inc Burma with vals to 10R
(M & FU) Good Jap Occupation
issues, Malaya with many
Occupation O'Prints inc better N.
Borneo inc BMA O'Prints to 50c,
Sarawak inc BMA to \$1 etc. Much
useful Cat £1400 £220.00

MAURITIUS

69 all QV mint and / or FU from
1860 9d (M) 1863 2d. 3d, 6d, 5/=
(M) plus FU range, 1878 most to
2R50 on 5/= (M) 1879 17c, 25c,
50c (M) 1883 complete to 50c
(M) Surcharges etc Very fine lot
Cat £2710 £385.00

MEMEL/ KLAPEIDA

100's fairly complete inc
O'Prints on France to 20Mk on
Germany to 2M50, Airs complete,
Klapecida complete but a few rarer
issues noted as mint. Mainly VFU
Cat £4135 £685.00

MONTSEERRAT

77 from a few earlies, mainly
interest in KG6 to £1, 1953 to
\$4.80 etc Cat £390 £65.00

RUSSIA

About 200 from 1875 with vals
to 1R, main value in unchecked
1960's range £30.00

SAINT HELENA

51 from S.G1 further Chalons to
5/=, 1890-7 set (M) etc. Some
remainder cancels but these
ignored in Cat value of £1800
£235.00

75 from few QV, 1912 Pictorial
to 1/=, 1922 vals to 2/=, KG6 to
10/=, 1953 to 10/= (2) etc. Fine
lot Cat £500 £100.00

SAINT VINCENT

41, all QV from 1862 6d, 1863
1d (M) 1869 1/= (FU) 1871 '721d,
6d, 1890 to 1/= etc Nice lot
several mint Cat £740 £110.00

SEYCHELLES

47 all QV inc 1890 most to 48c.
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1897 to 1R Mint and /or FU Cat
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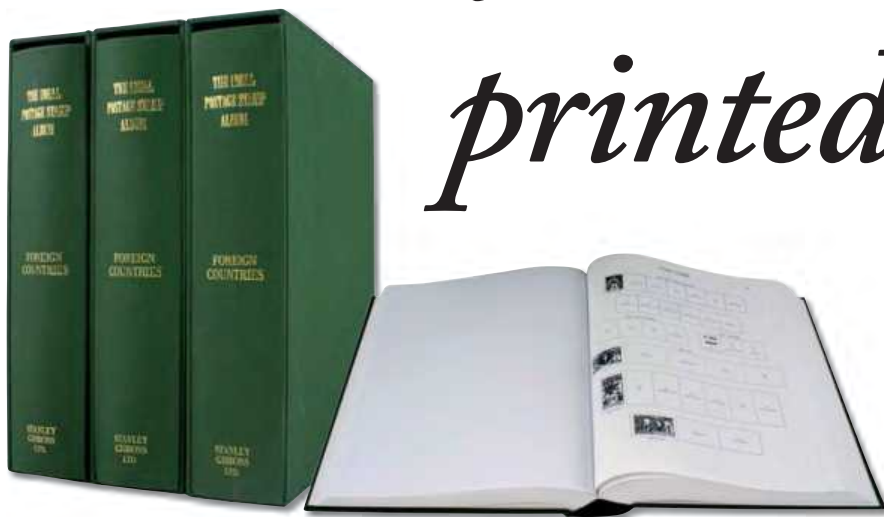
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The lure of the big printed album



Ever since I re-started collecting stamps, I've been fascinated by big old printed albums with a space for every stamp, writes David Bailey. This was the Grand Tour of world philately and a real challenge for collectors



Those big albums gave us hard-to-find countries, dead countries, short-lived military occupations and vanished states and provinces. These were places you might never collect in 100 years, but now you had to. Some would be every bit as boring as you feared. Others would be fascinating.

The scope of these albums extends through time as well as space, to widen your perspective on historic events. What was South America thinking about when Europe was embroiled in World War One? The stamps will tell you.

With a space for every stamp, you could find a home for all the odd little items you acquire, almost by accident, with every mixed lot. You'd find something you could use in every club packet that turned up on the doorstep. You could take advantage of dealers' clearance offers: Portuguese Colonies going cheap? You'd have the spaces waiting. In short, all your philatelic activity could be contributing to one grand project.

Of course, the reality is that the spaces for the common stamps would fill up all too soon, and leave you chasing higher-priced items across a worldwide front.

Just preparing and mounting all those stamps would take up hours of your time. And then would come the periods when you seemed to make very little progress. These albums swallow stamps like a desert swallows buckets of water. Would it all start to become a chore – a millstone round your neck – instead of a pleasurable relaxation? Would you finally give up and sell it on, like the abandoned restoration of a classic car?

Big albums can be filled. I know one dedicated collector who completed a pair of New Imperial albums as far as was practically possible. He then sold them and started afresh with the set of Ideals. He is now becoming as big an expert on early foreign as he is on early Empire.

If European album publishers did big world albums, I can find no trace of them. But the US equivalent is very much alive in the shape of Big Blue, the Scott International album covering 1840 to 1940. This evolved out of the Scott Junior album and is now available as a four-volume set comprising 1,139 double-sided pages.

In Britain, the Stanley Gibbons Ideal and New Ideal albums covered the world, while the Imperials did the empire in more detail. With the switch to one-country collecting, many of these have been broken up, but continuation projects still turn up. A recent Sandafayre auction had a green Ideal Volume II covering 1915 to 1930 in fine condition and with 680 decent stamps; it was estimated at £200 to £250.

At the time of writing, Gibbons still had a few copies left of the most recent incarnation of the Ideal, a three-volume set covering 1840 to 1936. When these are sold, there are no plans for a reprint.

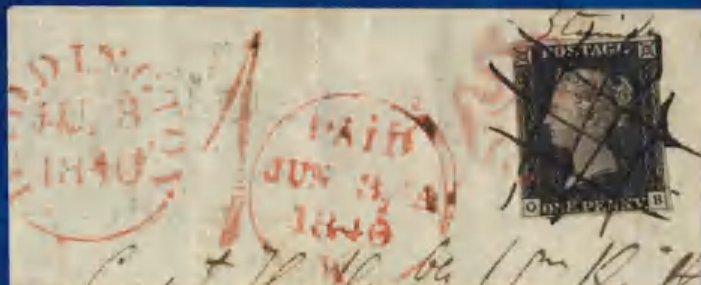
The Imperial has been out of print for some time but, as I write, it seems certain that a new updated edition will be available soon. It also seems likely that we will see a change of formats from fast-bound to loose leaf. This will enable collectors to take the whole lot as before, or to specify particular reigns, areas or countries. Great for choice, but it removes the element of compulsion. Terrified of Indian States? Leave them out.

But I still prefer the worldwide scope of the old Ideals. If the right continuation lot comes up, I'll have it.

Would it all start to become a chore – a millstone round your neck – instead of a pleasurable relaxation? Would you finally give up and sell it on, like the abandoned restoration of a classic car?

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Q. How to Build a Good Stamp Collection

A. (Hint) If it's easy – maybe it is TOO easy...

10+ 'TOP TIPS' for Successful Collecting

As many of you know I made the decision to give up collecting when I started full-time in the trade 43 years ago. But here's what I perceive as a mistake I made in terms of re-sale value and in enjoyment. If you are not bothered about V A L U E then you don't need to read further...

What I collected then was easy to source. It was good quality. They were (and still are) lovely stamps but they would be worth less now than when I collected and that's more than 40 years ago. The basic mistake I made then was thinking that 'easy' made for a good stamp collection. Yes, 'easy' made for a lovely collection but I could buy those same stamps – in the SAME quality – from any number of different sources. I still can today ... so if I can buy them easily today – will their value have appreciated? Has demand for what is/was easily available increased? The answer is a firm NO.

TIP As an 'aside'. In particular be wary of 'inertia' selling delivery systems – where you pay on direct debit / standing order system / monthly invoice. These systems usually hide the highest mark-ups in our industry and the lowest recovery value when it comes to sale. You are going to find this story particularly incredible – but about 13 years ago I was once called to clear a house-full of stamps. The owner had died leaving many 100's of unopened New Issue delivery envelopes. I opened one of the oldest envelopes. Inside was a note from the supplier saying sorry they

had not delivered the MINT 1929 PUC £1 ! Ah well, I thought "such is life" – the collection included both mint Wembleys + literally masses more. Imagine my surprise when the next envelope opened included a MINT PUC £1 with a note saying "we found one for you" (and then the realisation that this High Value stamp had lain inside the same envelope for so long that it had a large brown 'rust-spot' on the reverse!

Returning to subject: So, what forms the basis of a **GOOD** stamp collection if I want 'resale VALUE'?

TIP 1). The answer is, as usual, a combination of factors ... BUT, if you think in terms of desirability and then dial in quality ... this makes for a collection that others will wish to purchase. Of course collecting means that some of the stamps you source will be easily available ... but if ALL the stamps you collect are easily available and on average they cost very little each ... then you may have 1,000's of different stamps whose value lies in the actual handling cost of the supplier – not in their intrinsic value. So when it comes to selling this may result in little / no interest. Of course it goes without saying **TIP** – Always collect the Best quality that you can afford.

Where Do I Source Good Stamps ?

2). Sadly, in some senses, the Philatelic World has changed. Gone are the days when in 1980 100,000 different Collectors descended upon the 1980 International Stamp Exhibition at Earls Court. I know because I was there. An International Stamp Show in the 'west' today may be lucky to see 10,000 visitors. A stamp fair today in a local village / town may be lucky to see 30 visitors let alone 20 actual buyers ... when you consider that 15 dealers may have travelled to such a venue – is it any surprise that many Collectors may see the same stamps they saw at that same venue a month before?

3). No, the answer is that Stamp Collecting is alive and well – stamps shops are all but defunct – but 'underground' – on-line, by mail-order and at auction things are still 'humming' depending upon whom you are dealing with. So, let's look at potentially / proba-

bly the biggest sourcing area of the hobby apart from retail which is fairly self-explanatory ... and that is bidding / buying at Stamp Auction.

4). **Nowadays there are three types of stamp auction:** – Pure Internet / Public - (including on-line bidding) / Postal (Mail-Bid Sales – including on-line). Each has its strengths and weaknesses. Let's start with Pure Internet live auctions, I won't mention names but in some senses these are today's equivalent of the 'Wild West'. As fast as these internet Giants catch up with the some of the crooks using them, the crooks move a step ahead ... many internet bidders using them are 'hooked'.

TIP 4a). They have become 'live auction obsessed' unwilling / not capable of looking elsewhere – thinking that bidding / buying this way guarantees value which it does not. What happens when they come to sell?

Please turn to PAGE 37 



1953 Coronation Printer Presentation card with and without 'By Appointment'

GB SIDELINES

Printer presentation cards and folders



Printer presentation cards and folders are relatively scarce philatelic items, writes Amanda Grieve of Packs & Cards. They were issued by the printers of the stamps to be given as gifts to select, prominent staff of the British Post Office, to important individuals and to the press as publicity for the stamp issue. Each card and folder had a set of the stamp issue attached either hinged or glued on. The design of the printer presentation card changed over time from one sheet of card to a larger folder format.

Harrison and Sons Ltd are the most well-known printer company to produce these cards and folders, and so they are commonly known as 'Harrison cards'. The company was founded in 1750 and became a major worldwide engraver and printer of postage stamps and banknotes until 1997 when they were bought up by De La Rue.

The oldest printer presentation card we have seen dates to 1934 and illustrates the photogravure 1d & 1½d stamp issue of that year. No printer company name is written on the card. Some printer cards have minor differences even in limited production runs. For example, there are two different printing runs of the 1953 Coronation Printer card, with and without 'By Appointment' printed under coat of arms. This may be due to Harrison and Sons Ltd waiting for the new Royal seal of approval after the death of George VI.

Like stamps, errors also exist, such as the 1963 International Lifeboat Conference card there are examples where the green wavy printing is missing from the card background where the stamps are placed.

De La Rue continued to produce printer presentation folders up until 2001. The most recent example we have seen is 2001 England Definitive Country stamp issue. These rare and fascinating items are becoming increasingly popular to collect.

Discover more about Printer Cards and Folders by checking out the Packs & Cards website www.PacksAndCards.com or call: 01252 360530; email info@packsandcards.com; Packs & Cards, Oaklands House, Reading Road North, Fleet, Hampshire, GU51 4AB.



1963 International Lifeboat Conference Printer Presentation card with green

1963 International Lifeboat Conference Printer Presentation card without green

POSTMARKS

No 342 'Lorraine' Squadron

In September 1941 the first of eight RAF squadrons manned entirely by French personnel were created in Damascus, writes David Gwynn. The first of these was the 'Lorraine' Squadron which was a bomber unit. After a period of training, the squadron went to Egypt, flying 388 day sorties in support of the British Cyrenaica offensive. After a brief split, the squadron reformed in April 1943 at West Raynham in Norfolk, again as a bomber squadron, and was numbered 342. Its main role was daylight attacks on airfields, ports and military bases in occupied Europe.

The D-Day offensive saw the squadron in action laying a smoke screen in front of the US Navy in the approach to the Normandy beaches. By October 1944 the squadron was back in France, supporting the move into Belgium and the Netherlands. April 1945 saw them based in the Netherlands from where attacks were carried out on targets in Germany. At the end of the year, the squadron was disbanded and the personnel were transferred to the French Air Force. Its successor squadron was still operating in 1974, when the illustrated special postmark was used on an RAF cover commemorating the French squadrons of the RAF.



Stamp glossary

Selvage - (US spelling 'selvage') the margins of a stamp sheet or pane of stamps. This area can be blank, include the artwork of the sheet or feature printer's markings and postal instructions.

CINDERELLAS

Alternatives to coffee

During the First World War we Brits managed to avoid the worst effects of coffee deprivation thanks to adequate supplies of tea from our Indian Empire. Germany, on the other hand, possessed neither tea nor an empire. What's more, her inhabitants had become almost as dependent in pre-war years on coffee for its stimulating and morale-raising effects, as were her other enemies the Americans, who joined our side of the battlefield in 1917.

The Germans had to soldier-on even after the 1918 Armistice when severe inflation left little hard cash for luxury imports. Thus most at the lower levels of German society learned to do without coffee, or to drink it heavily laced with additives and substitutes designed to make a few grains go a long way. As in the whole of German society at that time, poster stamps – 'reklame marken' to German speakers – played important roles in persuading housewives and their pestering children that Brand X with two poster stamp promotions offered a better buy than Brand Y giving away a single, but much sought-after and scarcer poster stamp.



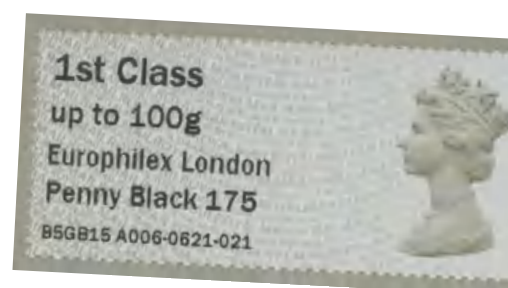
So far as taste came into the picture, the choices boiled down to three general types:

Ersatz – which offered a replacement for prohibitively expensive ground or powdered coffee beans. Roasted chicory, totally ersatz on its own and containing no caffeine, had a history as a healthy and stimulating beverage dating back to Roman times. Combined with roast dandelion root, it played an important role in medieval medicine, prescribed to induce sound sleep and to help broken bones mend quickly. In modern times it has become a popular drink when mixed with ground coffee. The British version – Camp Coffee – dates from the Victorian era and has many dedicated users. Germans too poor to afford a chicory root used well-roasted and coarsely ground acorns.

Zusatz – which based its appeal on making a small amount of genuine coffee go much further by adding pleasant flavours such as caramel, chocolate chips, almond essence and lots of milk in the same way that 21st-century High Street baristas offer us flavoured lattes.

Kornkaffee – this began as a beverage that Germans concocted simply to have a drink that looked like black coffee. They roasted whatever grains they could lay hands on (wheat, rye, corn, etc.) to a dark brown colour in a frying pan; then poured boiling water into the pan and allowed it to cool. When poured off the liquid looked like black coffee, but required malt extract, or a little honey to allow it to pass for coffee.

Look carefully at any German poster stamp advertising a coffee substitute and you will find the word 'ersatz', 'zusatz' or 'korn' in the message to tell you which substitute was being promoted.



POST & GO

Collecting craze

Who would have thought, writes Stuart Leigh, that back in October 2008 a self-service machine in a Post Office in Bristol dispensing self-adhesive stamps would develop into an International stamp collecting craze – Post & Go.

Today, just seven years later, our hobby is going from strength to strength, with new issues coming out at regular intervals from a network of over 200 kiosks across the UK in Post Offices. There are a number of kiosks at various museums (BPMA, Royal Marines, Royal Navy and Fleet Air Arm Museum) which have their initials as an identifier with special overprints for special occasions.

Mobile kiosks also attend International and National stamp exhibition as well as local fairs, where the stamps more often than not have an overprint of the show, generating another set of stamps to collect.

More recently a new range of kiosks have been trialled in Royal Mail Enquiry Offices at Crewe and North Bradford – which has been extended to Doncaster, Croydon and Kingston upon Thames, although the one from Crewe has been relocated at Mount Pleasant EO.

At Spring Stampex 2014 Jersey Post joined the Post & Go club, at Spring Stampex this year Guernsey came on board and at Europhilex in May Gibraltar made an appearance.

Over the coming months we will provide more details of the stamps and machines, such as the information you can decipher from the data-string – the ribbon of letters and number at the bottom of the stamp.

On 18th August six stamps and a miniature sheet are being issued by the **Royal Mail**

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The importance of bees

There are several hundred different types of bee resident in the British Isles. Bees are found in a variety of habitats and many people should be able to attract them to their gardens if they have the right kinds of flowering plants.

Bees use nectar from the flowers as a source of fuel, as it is high in sugar. The pollen provides the protein and nutrients needed for growth and development.

Northern Colletes Bee
Recorded in Northern Ireland in 1991, this is the first time in 100 years that this species has been recorded in the British Isles. It is a small, solitary bee, found in sandy areas, and the plant life it visits is limited.

Scabrous Bee
One of the largest solitary bees, it is found in sandy areas, and the plant life it visits is limited.

Large Mason Bee
Mason bees are solitary bees and are found only on hard surfaces like stone, brick or concrete. They are found in the hollows of old buildings and in the holes of old trees.

Small Solitary Bumblebee
This is the smallest of the bumblebees and is found in sandy areas, and the plant life it visits is limited.

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FIRST DAY COVERS

Battle of Britain cover controversy

You often see covers and wonder why that particular cover was chosen, why a certain postmark was used or why they did not put the full set on, writes Brian Austin. This cover, with two stamps from the set missing, could easily have been one of those mysteries, but then I discovered the reason.

Martin Josten did not use the final pair from the block of six as one showed the Iron Cross, the other a Swastika and he felt with the end of the Second World War just twenty years before feelings were still running high. A clipping from the *Daily Express* found inside the cover explained that some companies refused to use these stamps and there were rows in Parliament, whether they should be issued. Though Postmaster General, Mr (Tony)

Wedgwood Benn 'decided to press ahead with the issue'.

The issue was also raised on the letter page of the *Express* with two readers against and



one for: 'Critics of the Battle of Britain commemorative stamps should remember that it was fought and won against worthy opponents. There is little point in commemorating unworthy enemies'.

As a first day cover it may still be found in the 50p tray, but is a timely reminder of the wartime effort 75 years ago.

FORGERIES

Fraudulent Finnish cancels

Possibly the most dangerous forgery type involves fake postmarks, writes Keijo Kortelainen. With them you've got a 100 percent legitimate stamp, but the postmark is either complete fake or genuine canceller which has been used fraudulently. These fake cancels are common on some of Finland's early, classic stamps.

Usual suspects include the high values of 10 and 25 mk of type M-1917 Saarinen definitives, the 1mk orange Saarinen definitive issued in 1930, and all Finnish commemorative stamps from the 1920s and 1930s having short usage period (unlike most definitive stamps that were

valid until currency reform of 1963). Most of these stamps are very common as mint, but less frequently found as fine used.

Technically speaking most of the Finnish cancellation forgeries are not forgeries as genuine cancellers were used in production. The fakes often have a neat corner cancellation without visible year, or the year information has been damaged beyond recognition. Sometimes it was just an old timer backdating a date stamp to produce a nice postmark on a stamp that was no longer valid; sometimes it was more organised and cynical. Though there exists some specialised literature with records and examples on known abuses, many of these go easily unrecognised.

The images provide two specimens, both strong suspects. The 1928 Finnish semi-postal (right) was issued to raise money for the first national stamp exhibition. These stamps were sold at exhibition space only for a period of one month, and most genuinely used specimens are cancelled either with exhibition postmark or some local (Helsinki) postmark.



The illustrated specimen provides just a few letters of the postmark (likely 'SVARTÄ') and no clear date, so it's a strong suspect. In addition of cancellation forgeries, there are overprint forgeries (identifiable by inverted letter 's' in word 'uttställn') of these 1928 stamps.

Another specimen is a 1932 Red Cross semi-postal (left). The 'HANKO HANGÖ' postmark with no visible year (and in greyish colour instead of the usual black) is one the most common cancellation forgeries found on early 1930s semi-postals.





Britain's brilliant bees

For thousands of years Britain's bees have helped crops to thrive, forming a key link in the 'farm to fork' food chain – yet they are now in severe decline. Royal Mail have chosen to highlight the importance of these amazing insects with a new set of six stamps and a four-stamp miniature sheet, as our regular preview reveals

The relationship between humans and bees goes back to the Stone Age; for 10,000 years bee-keeping has been practised, producing honey, beeswax and royal jelly for a myriad of purposes, from medicine to cookery.

Now, this special and ancient co-operation is under threat – and the plight of Britain's bees is at the heart of Royal Mail's latest issue. Comprising six stamps, a four-stamp miniature sheet and associated products, 'Bees' takes a look at why these insects are so important to us – and what would happen if bees were no longer part of

The six stamps highlight the variety of Britain's species of bees



The four-stamp miniature sheet helps describe how the bee communicates, pollinates, makes honey and tends to their young

our varied wildlife.

The issue has been prepared with the cooperation of some of the country's foremost wildlife experts. Richard Lewington, who created the illustrations, was described by Sir David Attenborough as 'the greatest living artist of the genre'. Back in 2013, Richard collaborated with Swedish designer Anna Ekelund on Royal Mail's Butterflies issue – a partnership which has been renewed with this release.

The stamps

The six bee species selected for the sheet stamps have been chosen to represent various regions of the UK, different habitats and the various bee species that breed in the country – two bumblebee species and four 'solitary' bees.

The 2nd Class stamp shows the Scabious Bee (*Andrena hattorfiana*) pictured hovering on Field Scabious (*Knautia arvensis*). The Scabious Bee is one of the UK's largest solitary bees and is known as a 'mining bee'. Over the centuries, it has declined in range and nowadays, south west England is its key area, with other notable populations in East Anglia and South Wales. This insect lives in sandy or open grassland, and the plant Field Scabious is essential to its survival, as its pollen is used to feed the young larvae.

With the 1st class value we move to a bee which has suffered a huge decline, the Great Yellow Bumblebee (*Bombus distinguendus*) shown on a Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*). This bee is valued as a flagship conservation species for Scotland and is thought to

Stamp details

Bees

Issue date: 18 August 2015

Design: Anna Ekelund

Size: 37mm x 35mm

Printer: International Security Printers

Perforations: 14 x 14.5

2nd – Scabious Bee

1st – Great Yellow Bumblebee

£1.00 – Northern Colletes Bee

£1.33 – Bilberry Bumblebee

£1.52 – Large Mason Bee

£2.25 – Potter Flower Bee





have declined from eighty percent of its historic range in the UK. It forages in grassland on clover, vetch and knapweed.

From decline we move to hope, with the next stamp, featuring the Northern Colletes Bee (*Colletes floralis*). In 2003, this bee was recorded in Northern Ireland for the first time in seventy years – a finding of global importance as the Northern Colletes Bee's UK and Irish population represents fifty percent of the worldwide population of this species. The Bee thrives in sandy and coastal environments and forages on a range of flowers including carrot and parsley – the bee on the stamp is pictured on Wild Carrot.

The fourth stamp (£1.33) features arguably the most recognisable of the six species featured – since the Bilberry Bumblebee (*Bombus monticola*) can be found in northern and southern England, as well as Wales. It is shown feeding on Bilberry (*Vaccinium*

myrtillus) on the stamp – in reference to its preference for high moorland altitudes. The bee also forages on bramble, raspberry, bell heather, sallow and legumes such as clover and Bird's Foot Trefoil.

Britain's rarest solitary bee is the subject of the £1.52 value. This rare insect is now found only at two sites in Wales. Females of the species collect fresh water from cliffs and use this to make mud to create nest cells. The bees also forage nectar from Horseshoe Vetch, bramble and bugle.

The final stamp shows the Potter Flower Bee, a species that is now found in only a few sites in the south east of England. A 'flower bee' that has appearance of a bumble bee, the Potter Flower Bee is solitary. It has a preference for sandy soils such as dunes, cliffs and commons and forages from ground ivy (shown on the stamp), vetches, clovers and Bird's Foot Trefoil.

The Tallents House handstamp features a quote from a William Blake poem



Miniature sheet

The Western Honeybee (*Apis Mellifera*) is the subject of the mini sheet, which features four stamps (2 x 1st and 2 x £1.33) with illustrations by Andy English. Each of the stamps shows a different aspect of typical apian behaviour: the waggle dance, pollinating, making honey and tending the young. A decorative border showing different species of wildflower completes the miniature sheet.

The First Day Cover, designed by Anna Ekelund, features a colourful image showing flowers which are particularly favoured by British bees. The colourful presentation pack is well suited to the vibrancy of the subject, with a background photographic image of a wildflower meadow. Inside, science writer Dave Goulson looks at the huge variety of bees and offers practical guidance on what members of the public can do to counteract the many threats that bees face today.

The six species of bees featured on the stamps are described in the pack and their silhouettes are compared at real size. The life cycle of the bumblebee is also explained, while the accompanying carrier card, which holds the Honeybee miniature sheet, includes an overview of the Western Honeybee.

The six stamps from the set and the four miniature sheet stamps are also available in stamp cards, with each featuring an enlarged image from the set, with a final card showing the miniature sheet in its entirety.

Three different Bee postmarks are available including a handstamp (Tallents House, Edinburgh) featuring a fragment of a William Blake poem which reads 'The busy bee has no time for sorrow'.



For your chance to win one of ten Bees presentation packs, courtesy of Royal Mail, simply answer the question below:

Which British bee is known by the Latin name *Bombus terrestris*?

Enter online at: www.stampandcoinmart.co.uk

You can also enter by post. Send your answer, name and address to:
Stamp & Coin Mart magazine, Bees Competition (SCM2078), Warners Group Publications,
Fifth Floor, 31-32 Park Row, Leeds LS1 5JD. Closing date: 10 September, 2015.
Winner picked at random from correct entries. Editor's decision is final.





A reign of innovation

Paul Brittain looks at the philatelic scene during the reign of King George V, the so-called 'Collector King', who presided over numerous classic British stamps as well as some more controversial issues

It's rather ironic that the reign of King George V, a keen but conservative collector, should see stamps that many might question even today: a set only available from a particular event; a high value 180 times the basic letter rate.

However, it was a memorable reign, despite the general dislike of the Downey head initially used on the definitives. It saw two classic designs – the 'Seahorse' high values and the Postal Union Congress £1. It witnessed the first UK aerial post, Britain's first postage due stamps and her first stamps printed by photogravure.

Plus, of course, Britain's first commemorative stamps, for the British Empire Exhibition. It was agreed to issue two stamps, 1d and 1½d, with the Post Office preferring designs submitted by Harold Nelson and Eric Gill. However, the King did not like Gill's design, and suggested that a design by Nelson be used for both values.

The exhibition organisers insisted the stamps, issued on 23 April, 1924, were sold only at the event, in the hope of boosting the numbers attending. The organisers did not believe that publicity from having the stamps on general sale would increase attendance. However, pressure from dealers resulted in the stamps being obtainable by post from the London Chief Office from 1 July, 1924. The designs were also used on stationery: postcards at 1d; envelopes, letter cards and international postcards at 1½d. The stamps were additionally available from machines, for which they were produced in rolls and comb perforated.

The exhibition re-opened in 1925, with the range of items repeated but the year amended on the design to '1925': these first appeared on 9 May, 1925.

A £1 stamp

The Ninth Postal Union Congress was held in London, opening on 10 May,



Eric Gill's design for the British Empire Exhibition (BPMA)

Freedman's design for the Silver Jubilee with a Vandyk portrait (BPMA)

1929. The Post Office felt obliged to follow precedent and issue stamps. Indeed, it was noted that the cost of holding a previous Congress in Stockholm had been met from the sale of stamps. Four values were initially envisaged, ½d, 1d, 1½d and 2½d, to be available from all post offices. Later, a £1 value was added. No reason is known: it is suggested it was felt that 5½d worth of stamps seemed a mean gift for delegates; others believe the potential income was the deciding factor.

The stamps were issued on the opening day of the Congress. All values were available in sheets; the three lower values were also sold in rolls, and in 2/- and 3/- booklets. The £1 stamp, designed by Harold Nelson, remains highly regarded and desirable, although, as auction catalogues reveal, readily available.

Once the Government started planning celebrations for the King's Silver Jubilee, the Post Office felt obliged to issue stamps. The format chosen, twice the size of low-value definitives, remained in use for special stamps for many years. Several artists were invited to submit ideas; when all the designs were shown to Kenneth Clark, at the time Director of the National Gallery, he felt only that by Barnett Freedman was acceptable. Freedman's concept was essayed with portraits by either Mackennal as used on the definitives or Vandyk. The King chose the Mackennal portrait. Freedman included variations in his design to distinguish the denominations, ½d, 1d, 1½d and 2½d.

The stamps were issued on 7 May, 1935 in sheets, while the three lower values were also sold in 2/- and 3/- booklets.

Thoughts were given to printing the 2½d in turquoise (known to collectors as Prussian blue), but ultramarine was chosen. However, Harrison and Sons printed a 'considerable quantity' in turquoise, albeit most were destroyed. Nevertheless a few sheets were held by the Supplies Department, of which



four were accidentally despatched with good stock. At least three were sold from Upper Edmonton post office around 2 July.

For much more information about this reign read *George V and the GPO Stamps, Conflict & Creativity*, by Douglas N. Muir, published by the British Postal Museum & Archive in 2010.

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L18(p) control blk of 6 RPS cert
unmounted mint



1924 4d Grey Green Block Cypher
Spec N39-2 Watermark Inverted
UNMOUNTED MINT



Sg 423wi 3d Violet Block Cypher
Wmk Inverted Control B24 imperf
MOUNTED MINT in margin



N14(8) 1d Yellow Green Control C13 perf
plate 86b11b MOUNTED MINT



4d Slate Green Royal Cypher control G 15
perf reconstructed peice MOUNTED MINT



N32(11) 1- Yellow-Brown
Royal Cypher with RPS cert
UNMOUNTED MINT



Sg 423 3d Violet
Block Cypher
control G27
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G.B. UM SETS, PRES. PACKS AND F.D.C.'s

DATE	SET	U/M	PACK	F.D.C.	DATE	SET	U/M	PACK	F.D.C.	DATE	SET	U/M	PACK	F.D.C.	DATE	SET	U/M	PACK	F.D.C.
1924	Wembley	12.00	*	*	1973	Tree	0.10	1.00	0.25	1988	Transport	1.10	1.10	0.60	2000	Above and Beyond	1.60	1.60	1.00
1925	Wembley	35.00	*	*	1973	Explorers	0.50	2.00	0.50	1988	Australia	1.10	1.10	0.60	2000	Fire and Light	1.60	1.60	1.00
1929	P.U.C.	15.00	*	*	1973	Crickets	0.40	2.50	0.60	1988	Armada	1.00	1.00	0.60	2000	Water and Coast	1.60	1.60	1.00
1929	PUC WMK. SIDE	160.00	*	*	1973	Paintings	0.35	1.00	0.40	1988	Lear	1.20	1.20	0.60	2000	Life and Earth	2.00	2.00	1.00
1929	PUC WMK. INV.	42.00	*	*	1973	Inigo Jones	0.30	1.00	0.40	1988	Christmas	1.30	1.30	0.60	2000	Art and Craft	2.00	2.00	1.00
1935	Jubilee	3.30	*	*	1973	Parliament	0.25	1.00	0.30	1989	Birds	1.20	1.20	0.60	2000	People and Place	2.00	2.00	1.00
1935	Jubilee Inv.	20.00	*	*	1973	Wedding	0.30	1.00	0.30	1989	Greetings	5.00	*	5.00	2000	Stone and Soil	2.00	2.00	1.00
1937	Coronation	0.10	*	14.00	1973	Christmas	0.75	1.50	0.75	1989	Food	1.20	1.20	0.60	2000	Tree and Leaf	2.00	2.00	1.00
1940	Centenary	2.50	*	25.00	1974	Tree	0.15	1.00	0.20	1989	Anniversaries	1.10	1.20	0.60	2000	Mind and Matter	2.00	2.00	1.00
1946	Victory	0.10	*	25.00	1974	Fire	0.40	1.20	0.50	1989	Toys	1.20	1.20	0.60	2000	Body and Bone	2.00	2.00	1.00
1948	Wedding	15.75	*	*	1974	UPU	0.35	1.50	0.40	1989	Ind. Arch.	1.20	1.20	0.60	2000	Spirit and Faith	2.00	2.00	1.00
1948	Liberation	0.10	*	14.00	1974	Britons	0.40	1.50	0.40	1989	Microscopes	1.20	1.20	0.60	2000	Sound and Vision	2.00	2.00	1.00
1948	Olympics	3.00	*	20.00	1974	Churchill	0.40	1.50	0.50	1989	Mayor	1.00	1.00	0.60	2001	Hopes for the Future	2.00	2.00	1.00
1949	U.P.U.	0.40	*	34.00	1974	Christmas	0.30	1.50	0.40	1989	Christmas	1.20	1.20	0.60	2001	Occasions	2.75	3.00	1.00
1951	Festival	0.10	*	15.00	1975	Charity	0.05	-	0.20	1990	150th Anniv.	1.30	3.00	1.50	2001	Cats and Dogs	6.50	6.50	3.00
1953	Coronation	7.50	*	30.00	1975	Turner	0.30	1.20	0.35	1990	RSPCA	1.20	1.20	0.60	2001	Weather	2.00	3.00	1.00
1957	Scotts	2.80	*	14.00	1975	Architecture	0.45	1.00	0.50	1990	Greetings	6.00	*	6.00	2001	Navy Submarines	2.00	5.00	1.50
1957	Parliament	0.25	*	60.00	1975	Sailing	0.35	1.00	0.45	1990	Eurosa	1.20	1.20	0.60	2001	Double-Deckers	3.00	3.50	2.00
1958	Games	0.75	*	45.00	1975	Railway	0.40	1.20	0.50	1990	Queens Award	1.20	1.20	0.60	2001	Fabulous Hats	2.40	2.40	1.00
1960	G.L.O.	1.30	*	25.00	1975	Parliament	0.15	0.50	0.30	1990	Gardens	1.20	1.20	0.60	2001	Pond Life/Europa	2.40	2.40	1.00
1960	Europa	3.75	*	20.00	1975	Austen	0.40	1.20	0.45	1990	Hardy	0.20	0.20	0.20	2001	Punch & Judy	3.30	3.50	1.20
1961	P.O.S.B.	0.70	*	30.00	1975	Christmas	0.40	1.20	0.35	1990	Birthdays	1.20	1.20	0.60	2001	Nobel Prizes	4.50	10.00	1.20
1961	C.E.P.T.	0.10	*	2.00	1976	Telephone	0.40	1.00	0.40	1990	Gallantry	1.00	1.00	0.60	2001	Christmas	3.00	3.00	1.20
1961	Parliament	0.75	*	14.01	1976	Reformers	0.40	1.00	0.40	1990	Astronomy	1.20	1.20	0.60	2002	Kipling Stories	6.50	6.50	3.00
1962	N.P.Y. (ORD)	0.10	*	17.50	1976	USA	0.40	1.00	0.40	1991	Christmas	1.50	1.50	0.75	2002	Golden Jubilee	3.50	12.50	2.50
1962	N.P.Y. (PHOS)	9.75	*	75.00	1976	Roses	0.40	1.00	0.40	1991	Dogs	1.50	1.50	0.75	2002	Occasions	2.75	3.00	1.20
1963	F.F.H. (O)	0.70	*	14.00	1976	Culture	0.40	1.00	0.40	1991	Greetings "Luck"	6.50	*	4.50	2002	Coastlines	3.00	3.00	1.50
1963	F.F.H. (P)	9.75	*	22.00	1976	Caxton	0.40	1.00	0.40	1991	Science	1.20	1.20	0.60	2002	Queen Mother	2.40	2.40	1.00
1963	Paris (O)	0.10	*	5.00	1976	Christmas	0.40	1.00	0.40	1991	Greetings "Smile"	6.50	*	4.50	2002	Circus	3.00	3.00	1.20
1963	Paris (P)	2.40	*	17.50	1977	Sports	0.45	1.40	0.40	1991	Space	1.20	1.20	0.60	2002	Aircraft	3.00	3.00	2.00
1963	Nature (O)	0.10	*	10.00	1977	Chemistry	0.45	1.40	0.40	1991	Sports	1.20	1.20	0.60	2002	C.wealth Games	3.00	3.00	1.50
1963	Nature (P)	1.40	*	10.00	1977	S. Jubilee (Sv)	0.50	1.00	0.50	1991	Roses	1.50	1.50	0.75	2002	Peter Pan	3.00	3.00	1.50
1963	Lifeboat (O)	1.10	*	14.00	1977	Government	0.10	0.30	0.30	1991	Dinosaurs	1.50	1.50	0.75	2002	London Bridges	3.00	12.50	2.50
1963	Lifeboat (P)	17.50	*	24.00	1977	Wildlife	0.45	0.60	0.40	1991	Maps	1.30	1.30	0.60	2002	Pillar Boxes	3.00	3.00	2.00
1963	Red Cross (O)	2.00	*	16.00	1977	Christmas	0.45	0.60	0.40	1991	Christmas	1.40	1.40	0.60	2002	Christmas	3.00	3.00	1.50
1963	Red Cross (P)	25.00	*	40.00	1978	Energy	0.40	0.60	0.35	1992	Wintertime	1.50	1.50	0.75	2002	Birds of Prey	6.50	6.50	3.00
1963	Cable (O)	0.80	*	10.00	1978	Buildings	0.40	0.60	0.35	1992	Greetings	6.50	6.50	4.00	2003	Occasions	3.00	3.00	1.50
1963	Cable (P)	4.80	*	27.50	1978	Coronation	0.40	0.50	0.35	1992	Accession	1.20	1.20	0.70	2003	The Secret of Life	3.00	3.00	1.75
1964	Shakes (O)	1.40	*	10.00	1978	Horses	0.40	0.50	0.35	1992	Tennyson	1.20	1.20	0.70	2003	Fun Fair & Veg	6.50	6.50	2.50
1964	Shakes (P)	4.50	*	6.00	1978	Cycling	0.40	0.50	0.35	1992	Olympics	1.50	1.50	0.75	2003	Endeavour	3.50	3.50	2.00
1964	Geog (O)	1.50	*	85.00	1978	Christmas	0.40	0.50	0.35	1992	Civil War	1.30	1.30	0.70	2003	The Coronation	6.50	6.50	2.50
1964	Geog (P)	9.75	*	16.00	1979	Dogs	0.40	0.50	0.30	1992	G. & Sullivan	1.50	1.50	0.75	2003	Prince William	2.30	2.30	2.00
1964	Bot (O)	1.40	*	85.00	1979	Flowers	0.40	0.50	0.30	1992	Green	1.30	1.30	0.70	2003	Scotland	3.50	3.50	2.00
1964	Bot (P)	9.75	*	16.00	1979	Elections	0.40	0.50	0.30	1992	Euro-Market	0.25	0.25	0.20	2003	Pub Signs	3.20	3.20	2.50
1964	F.R.B. (O)	0.15	*	275.00	1979	Racing	0.40	0.50	0.30	1992	Christmas	1.50	1.50	0.75	2003	Transport Toys	3.20	3.20	2.00
1964	F.R.B. (P)	2.00	*	6.00	1979	Year Of Child	0.40	0.50	0.30	1993	Swans	1.50	1.50	0.75	2003	British Museum	3.50	3.50	2.00
1965	Churchill (O)	0.80	*	28.00	1979	Rowland Hill	0.45	0.50	0.30	1993	Greetings	6.50	6.50	4.00	2003	Christmas	3.00	3.00	1.50
1965	Churchill (P)	0.80	*	2.50	1979	Police	0.45	0.50	0.30	1993	Clocks	1.30	1.30	0.70	2004	Locomotives	4.00	5.00	3.00
1965	Parliament (O)	0.35	*	40.00	1979	Christmas	0.55	0.60	0.30	1993	Orchids	1.50	1.50	0.75	2004	Occasions	3.00	3.00	1.50
1965	Parliament (P)	0.30	*	10.00	1980	Birds	0.50	0.50	0.30	1993	Art	1.30	1.30	0.70	2004	Lord of the Rings	6.50	6.50	2.50
1965	Army (O)	0.30	*	8.00	1980	Railways	0.60	0.70	0.30	1993	Roman	1.30	1.30	0.70	2004	Northern Ireland	3.50	3.50	2.00
1965	Army (P)	0.70	*	10.00	1980	London	0.50	0.60	0.30	1993	Canals	1.30	1.30	0.70	2004	Entente Cordiale	1.00	4.00	0.50
1965	Lister (O)	0.30	*	5.00	1980	Landmarks	0.60	0.60	0.30	1993	Autumn	1.50	1.50	0.80	2004	Ocean Liners	3.50	3.50	2.00
1965	Lister (P)	0.80	*	6.50	1980	Famous Women	0.55	0.70	0.30	1993	Holmes	1.20	1.20	0.60	2004	Horticultural	3.50	3.50	2.00
1965	Arts (O)	0.30	*	6.00	1980	Q.Mother	0.10	0.30	0.30	1993	Christmas	1.50	1.50	0.75	2004	Wales	3.00	3.00	2.00
1965	Arts (P)	0.90	*	8.00	1980	Music	0.55	0.60	0.30	1994	Railway	1.50	1.50	1.20	2004	Society of Arts	3.20	3.20	2.00
1965	B.O.B. (O)	2.80	*	35.00	1980	Sports	0.55	0.60	0.30	1994	Greetings	6.50	6.50	4.00	2004	Woodland Animals	6.50	6.50	3.00
1965	B.O.B. (P)	4.20	*	10.00	1980	Christmas	0.70	0.80	0.40	1994	Paintings	1.50	1.50	0.75	2004	The Crimean War	3.80	3.80	2.50
1965	P.O.T. (O)	0.15	*	6.50	1981	Folklore	0.75	1.00	0.50	1994	Postcards	1.50	1.50	0.75	2004	Christmas	3.70	3.70	3.00
1965	P.O.T. (P)	0.15	*	2.50	1981	Disabled	0.75	0.80	0.50	1994	Tunnel	1.40	1.40	0.70	2005	Farm Animals	6.50	6.50	5.00
1965	U.N.O. (O)	0.30	*	5.00	1981	Butterflies	0.75	0.80	0.50	1994	D-Day	1.30	1.30	0.70	2005	S. West England	3.00	3.00	2.00
1965	U.N.O. (P)	0.30	*	5.00	1981	National Trust	1.00	1.00	0.60	1994	Cup	1.50	1.50	0.75	2005	Jane Eyre	3.50	3.50	2.00
1965	I.T.U. (O)	0.30	*	6.50	1981	Royal Wedding	0.40	0.70	0.50	1994	Four Seasons	1.50	1.50	0.75	2005	Magic	3.30	3.50	2.50
1965	I.T.U. (P)	1.80	*	8.50	1981	D. Of Edinburgh	0.75	0.80	0.50	1994	Medical	1.30	1.30	0.70	2005	World Heritage	4.20	4.20	2.50
1966	Burns (O)	0.20	*	30.00	1981	Fishing	0.75	0.80	0.50	1994	Christmas	1.50	1.50	0.75	2005	Trooping The Colour	3.70	4.00	2.50
1966	Burns (P)	0.60	*	2.00	1981	Christmas	0.90	1.00	0.50	1995	Cats	1.50	1.50	0.75	2005	Motorcycles	3.20	3.50	2.50
1966	Abbey (O)	0.20	*	24.00	1982	Darwin	0.90	1.00	0.50	1995	Springtime	1.50	1.50	0.75	2005	Tastes in Britain	3.20	3.20	2.50
1966	Abbey (P)	0.10	*	5.00	1982	Youth	0.90	1.00	0.50	1995	Greetings	6.50	6.50	4.00	2005	Classic ITV	3.20	3.20	2.50
1966	Landscapes (O)	0.25	*	2.50	1982	Theatre	0.90	1.00	0.50	1995	N.Trust	1.50	1.50	0.75	2005	Smilers	7.50	*	6.00
1966	Landscapes (P)	0.30	*	3.20	1982	Maritime	0.90	1.00	0.50	1995	Eurosa	1.20	1.20	0.60	2005	Battle of Trelgar	3.00	3.30	3.00
1966	W. Cup (O)	0																	

Perhaps then they realise that **only** some of what they may have glistening is 'gold'. Indiscriminate internet auction bidders buying 1,000's of low price items ... may have spent large sums IN TOTAL ... but may not have created desirable collections. The cost of a low priced item is the labour and cost of selling it. Nothing changes when that item comes to being re-sold.

TIP 5). Now let's look at Public Auction. Yes – you will be hard pressed to find a Public Stamp Auction that does not accept on-line / live internet bidding. As with 'Pure Internet' stamp sales – and perhaps even more so – 'Caveat Emptor' (buyer beware becomes even more the mantra. Generally individual lots may have higher average values so that lots offered are often higher value collections, accumulations or higher value sets / singles / rarities. Such auctions are the 'haunts' of dealers and astute buyers ... but risk is attached, plus the absence of guarantees and the pernicious unpleasant buyer's premium + other charges which at certain auctions can convert a £1000 stamp purchase into as much as an invoice for £1,300.

TIP 5a). There are bargains to be had – but it is very much a 'big boys' playing field. Some of these auctions deliberately under-estimate lots that they know are worth far more ... so that they can then have the dubious pleasure of publicising that a £1,000 estimated lot realised £10,000, when perhaps their knowledge suggested it should have been estimated at upwards of £5,000 in the first place ... (hence – how wonderful they are).

TIP 5b). For certain types of lots such as actual Collections offered fairly intact the absence of guarantee combined with unreliable estimate means that for those who do not physically view a Public Stamp Auction and bid 'blind' – this is a dangerous place to be. Of course this may work to the advantage of an astute bidder who is actually present to physically view lots in the auction room. Historically that person was usually a Dealer. Perhaps less so these days.

TIP 6). Finally we come to look at Postal Auctions/ Mail-Bid Sales. First I must profess that I have an interest in a Mail-Bid / Postal Auction Sale. My company U P A conducts the largest postal auctions in the U K ... What should the Collector or Dealer be looking for here?

TIP 6a). Most **good** Postal Auctions including U P A offer Collectors a **No Quibble Refund Guarantee (NQRG)** ... and by 'No Quibble' I mean **NO QUIBBLE**. Look for this – it is crucial. You are probably not

actually seeing the stamps before bidding ... so no guarantee would mean unacceptable risk.

TIP 6b). Unlike Public Auctions most Postal Auctions 'break' many collections into smaller 'collector-sized' units so that you may find what you seek without having to purchase what you do not need - it follows that most of the stamps in most postal auctions may be owned by the company presenting the auction. It is not viable to sell low priced lots on a commission basis. Ask yourself why you may be asked to pay a buyer's premium? Is it actually a Vendor's lot or owned by 'The House'?

TIP 6c). The Buyer's Premium was introduced to 'split' cost between buyer and seller so that a 'low' seller's commission looks attractive (if you forget about the premium the buyer is paying for the seller's stamps). Be aware of this or deal with auctions not charging a buyer's premium. You are in control. You can bid anywhere that you find what you seek – but it is good to be aware and informed.

TIP 6d). Prices Realised are IMPORTANT. For some unknown reason – even some larger Postal / Mail-Bid Auctions still do not produce lists of what their lots sold for after the auction. Look for auctions providing this feature – it provides reassurance combined with a trackable 'snapshot' of current market values **PLUS** what is selling and what is not selling. You can learn such a lot from 'Prices Realised' – I study them each day.

TIP 7). Credit Cards. 75% of some auction sales are settled by credit / debit card. The Biggest in the land has no need to charge you for use of them ... Sheer volume of business accesses lowest rates. Why are you paying a premium to use your card? Is the supplier making a profit upon the extra % you are charged to use your card?

TIP 8). Look for unique 'Collector friendly' benefits that turn the disadvantage of lots not being sold to your advantage. U P A, for example, has for the past 15 years offered their Unique Reducing Estimate System (**URES**) whereby lots are increasingly reduced in estimate price till sold – some have reached one penny and then sold. Approaching one million lots have been offered through this system.

TIP 9). Cost of Delivery is one of the most annoying hidden costs that collectors absolutely abhor. Look for transparency in this area.

TIP 10). Beware the Seller / Auction NOT including Insurance when sending your winnings.

And Finally We come to choice ... and mind-set ?

TIP Without Choice we have nothing. So it follows that you need substantial choice to form a good, even great, stamp collection. You cannot do business when each time you 'visit' all you see is what you have seen before – stagnating stocks offered at prices that ensure continued stagnation. If choice is limited you'll never find philatelic items you need – or even that you were unaware of their existence. That's the joy of collecting. The thrill of the unexpected, the chance find. You need dealers that want to help and auctions that wish to serve – so, in stamps 'attitude is all'.

So when you're searching for a stamp auction compare it against your list above of what to look for and if and when you're offered a 'No Risk Free Trial' ... please consider – take it Now ♦

Remembering the Battle of Britain

This summer marks the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, the famous aerial battle which took place over the skies of southern England during the summer of 1940.

The Isle of Man Post Office has marked the anniversary with a sheet of twelve stamps, created in association with the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust, featuring artwork by renowned aviation artist Keith Woodcock. The stamps show the planes and pilots that took part in the Battle, which culminated in a triumph for Britain and the Allies, albeit with the loss of thousands of lives.

The commemorative stamp sheet features the twelve stamps, which are interspersed by black and white photographs from the Battle of Britain, set against a background of British fighter pilots, bombers and London during the Blitz.

In the weeks leading up to this historic battle, Britain stood alone; with Hitler's forces having marched across Europe, gaining huge territories, which led to the fall of France in June 1940. Hitler now turned his attention to Operation Sealion, a chilling and ambitious plan to force Britain to surrender – something which he recognised could only be achieved with German air superiority. However, German intelligence had underestimated Britain's aerial resources and land-based support, as well as the country's determination to hold firm, and by October 1940, it became clear that the tide had turned in favour of the Allies, giving fresh determination for the fighting that lay ahead.



Long to reign over us...


GUERNSEY

Guernsey will release a special stamp and limited edition folder to mark Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II becoming Britain's longest reigning monarch and the longest reigning female monarch in world history on 9 September.

The Alderney stamp (priced £10) and folder (priced £95) will be issued on the exact date when the Queen officially supersedes Queen Victoria's reign which lasted for 63 years and seven months.

The definitive stamp depicts Her Majesty waiting to greet guests at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto during a visit to Canada in July 2010.

With only 350 available, the embossed, high quality folder contains an imperforate sheet of five of the stamps and a Guernsey £20 Diamond Jubilee banknote.

Guernsey Post's head of philatelic Dawn Gallienne said: 'Whilst still a princess, Her Majesty vowed to reign her whole life. Since the Queen's accession in 1952 following the death of her father, King George VI, much has happened during Her Majesty's reign, and we are absolutely delighted to mark this historically significant



Stamp details

Issue date: 9 September, 2015

Design: Bridget Yabsley

Printer: Lowe-Martin, offset lithography

Perforations: 12.5

Stamp size: 38.6mm deep x 28.4mm wide

Paper: 120gsm unwatermarked PVA adhesive

£10 - photo portrait of Queen Elizabeth II


JERSEY

Jersey Post commemorates this royal landmark with a four-stamp issue and miniature sheet, each featuring official royal portraits of the Queen. In a nod to significant anniversaries of Queen Elizabeth's reign, which began on 6 February, 1952, the four stamps each feature an official portrait of the Queen created for the Coronation (Cecil Beaton, 1953), the Silver Jubilee (Peter Grurgeon, 1977), the Golden Jubilee (John Swanell,

2002) and the Diamond Jubilee (John Swanell, 2012).

The miniature sheet, printed on silk, features *The Coronation Theatre, Westminster Abbey: A Portrait of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II* by Ralph Heimans. Westminster Abbey is one of the most historic and symbolic buildings in the history of Britain's monarchy – it has been the crowning place of the country's kings and queens since 1066 and is the burial place of monarchs including King Henry VII, Queen Elizabeth I and King George II.

Heiman's painting was commissioned by Buckingham Palace to mark The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 and depicts the Queen in a contemplative pose. She is standing on the Cosmati pavement, the spot where every English monarch has been crowned since it was commissioned by King Henry III in the thirteenth century.

Stamp details

Issue date: 9 September, 2015

Printer: Cartor, offset lithography

Stamp size: 40mm x 30mm

Miniature sheet: 84mm deep x 122 mm
Miniature sheet stamp size: 45mm deep
 x 28mm

47p - Coronation (Cecil Beaton, 1953)

57p - Silver Jubilee (Peter Grurgeon, 1977)

71p - Golden Jubilee (John Swanell, 2002)

£1.25 - Diamond Jubilee

(John Swanell, 2012)

Miniature sheet:

£3 - *The Coronation Theatre, Westminster Abbey: A Portrait of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II* painting by Ralph Heimans





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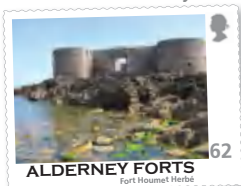
Sark: 450 Years as a Fief to the Crown

Set of 5 stamps: £3.06
Issue date: 22 July 2015



Alderney Forts

Set of 6 stamps: £3.62
Issue date: 22nd July 2015



Alderney - Her Majesty: The Longest Reigning Monarch

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Inside sample of folder.

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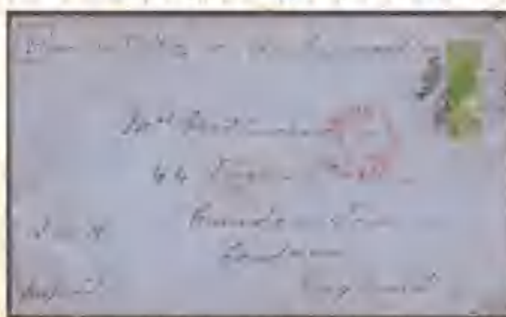


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Britain's first high values

Britain's embossed stamps, known as 'Medallion Labels' at the time, are full of interest for collectors, writes David Bailey as he reveals why the stamps were introduced and what prompted their withdrawal seven years later

By the mid-1840s, it was becoming obvious that the two existing stamps were not enough. In 1841, postal treaties had been signed with America and France setting rates of 1/- and 10d respectively – and while multiples of 1d and 2d stamps look great in a collection, they weren't so desirable in practice.

It took a general election to move things along. In 1846, the incumbent Tories were ousted by a Whig/Liberal Government under Lord John Russell and with an energetic new Postmaster General in the Marquess of Clanricarde.

The first requirement was for a 1/- stamp to use on mail to the USA, Canada and Australia. But the thought of producing such high values filled the Inland Revenue with trepidation.

Their first concern was to produce a stamp that was distinctive, impossible to forge and difficult to clean and re-use. They decided to keep the entire printing process in house – and took as their model the embossed designs that were appearing on postal stationery. This was a three-dimensional finish, where the ink of a cancellation settled into the hollows. Medallist William Wyon was asked to devise a die and he proposed an octagonal design to be printed in



Clockwise from top left: A good example of the Dull Lilac shade, estimated at £300 in a recent Apex Auction; a fine, 4 margin example of the 10d. It was estimated at £300 at a recent Apex Auction; the embossed stamps were the first to be overprinted 'Specimen' (images courtesy of Apex Auctions)

green. For extra security, this was printed on Dickenson 'silk thread' paper, which incorporated pairs of blue cotton fibres, placed 5mm apart.

Their second concern was that only the right sort of people would get their hands on them. Initially, distribution was restricted to larger post offices only. In England and Wales, this meant offices handling 10,000 letters per week or more. The limit for Scotland and Ireland was lower, at 3,000 letters per week, because these countries had seen higher levels of emigration to the Colonies. However, all parts of the network needed to know what the new stamps looked like, so 4,000 stamps were overprinted 'Specimen' and circulated to all post offices, a practice that would continue.

Production problems

The 1/- stamp was issued in September 1847. But despite the immediate need, the 10d stamp was slow to follow. William Wyon was also busy engraving campaign medals, dealing with a backlog dating to 1797 as well as new medals required for



Britain's small colonial wars, like the Sutlej campaign against the Sikhs.

The 10d eventually appeared in November 1848; it, too, was printed on the 'silk thread' paper. The 1/- stamp was produced on sheets containing four rows of five stamps, the 10d in six rows of four.

Unfortunately, each stamp had to be printed individually, and the printer had no way of knowing precisely where each impression would be. This was slow and incredibly wasteful. In total 282,771 sheets of 1/- stamps were distributed and 90,229 sheets had to be scrapped. And the sheets that did pass muster were too poorly aligned to



When the 6d and 1/- dies were used for stationery, they had three date plugs added to the design. (Image courtesy of BC Stamps)



A fine 1/- stamp on cover to the Royal Observatory outside Cape Town (image courtesy of Robert A Siegel Auctions)

be perforated by machines.

Gum arabic was applied, generously, after printing; it frequently filled the hollows left by the diestamping process. But the paper was thick, almost a cartridge paper, so there were frequent complaints about the stamps coming unstuck.

But despite all the problems, the embossed issues were widely used and in 1850, distribution was made universal.

The 6d stamp was ordered in 1851 but did not appear until March 1854.

Each stamp had to be printed individually, and the printer had no way of knowing precisely where each impression would be

It was needed for the rate to Belgium, amongst other countries, and to pay the current 6d registration fee. It, too, was engraved by William Wyon and was printed at first in violet and then in a reddish lilac shade. The format was still basically octagonal, but now the design had more by way of ornament and four of the sides were curved. It was printed in sheets of twenty, comprising four rows of five stamps, but this time the paper had a VR watermark instead of cotton threads and was supplied ready gummed. For later printings, this gum had a greenish tinge to stop them printing on the gummed side.

Letterpress takes over

In 1855, a new treaty reduced the

postal rate to France to only 4d; the 10d stamp was discontinued and the need for a 4d value prompted a wider look at how these stamps were produced. This time, an alternative method was available, letterpress or surface printing. De La Rue had been printing the 1d revenue stamps since 1853. They had developed intricate backgrounds to prevent forgery and fugitive inks to prevent re-use. The stamps stuck to the paper and were supplied in perforated sheets. The 6d

embossed was an anachronism from the day it appeared.

The 4d carmine appeared in 1855, designed by Joubert, a brilliant French engraver who had worked on the original Ceres stamps. It was well-



William Wyon: the name behind the face

The Wyon family came to Britain from Germany along with George I of Hanover. George Wyon, William's grandfather, was silver-chaser to the king and William's uncle, Thomas Wyon later became engraver of the royal seals. Meanwhile the young William was soon winning prizes and admirers for his engraving work and in 1816 was appointed second engraver at the mint.



Promotion was slow and complicated by internal politics but his neoclassic coin designs for William IV were greatly admired by the King, and William was soon working flat out on the coinage for Britain plus a host of colonies. He became Chief Engraver at the Mint in 1828.

In 1834, he sketched the head of a fifteen-year-old Princess Victoria. This was subsequently used in 1837 to make the City Medal, commemorating the Queen's first official visit to the City of London. Rowland Hill realised that the portrait was ideal for his planned Penny Postage stamps, and the first die was engraved by Charles Heath using a sketch by Henry Courbould. The same head would be used on every British stamp until 1902, but the embossed stamps and early postal stationery are the work of Wyon himself.

William Wyon died on 29 October, 1851 after suffering what was almost certainly a stroke brought on by a combination of poor health and overwork. His son, Leonard Charles Wyon continued the family tradition, engraving (inter alia) the bronze coinage used from 1860 until 1894.

received by the Post Office and public alike. In 1856, it was joined by a 6d and 1/- versions and the embossed stamps were withdrawn. They did, however make one last appearance; Philbrick and Westoby report that unused stocks to the 10d were pressed into service in 1863 to meet a 'temporary requirement', but do not state what it was.



The 1/- and 10d can be found with the threads 20mm apart (image courtesy of Apex Auctions)

Collecting the embossed

So much about these stamps is unique that there's no shortage of interest for collectors.

Each die used to print the stamps is numbered and initialled WW on the base of the bust; there are two dies for the 1/-, five for the 10d and one for the 6d. However, the numbers are not always clear.

Numbers issued are as follows:

One Shilling: 5,655,420

Ten Pence: 2,805,960

Six Pence: 3,718,280.

In theory, the 10d stamp to the continent should be more common, given the volume of trade and traffic. But much business mail to France was paid for in bulk by cash.

The haphazard printing process has thrown up a host of errors and varieties. Double impressions can be found, as can overlapping stamps. It is stamps with four clear margins that are rare.

In the paper, faults in manufacturing mean that some 1/- and 10d stamps have only one central thread. Faults in printing mean that the threads sometimes appear 20mm apart. And the VR watermark of the 6d stamps can be found in all four possible variations.

Only one shade is listed for the brown, though there is some variation within it. The three shades of the green are quite distinct. In the 6d, the one really difficult shade is the



Four margins and a fine deep colour. The 10d rate to France was in force from June 1943 to December 1864 (image courtesy of Robert A Siegel Auctions)

violet (SG61). This is a blackish shade without a trace of red in it and should only be approached with caution. Many existing certificates are questionable and new certificates are rarely issued.

Price and condition

When it comes to condition, the buyer has an exceptionally wide choice, from cut to shape with heavy cancels to lightly-used with clear margins.

Many stamps were cut to shape by collectors to fit the printed album pages of the time – but they can also be found on cover. So Post Office staff were cutting neatly round the edges as well.

The quality of embossing varies

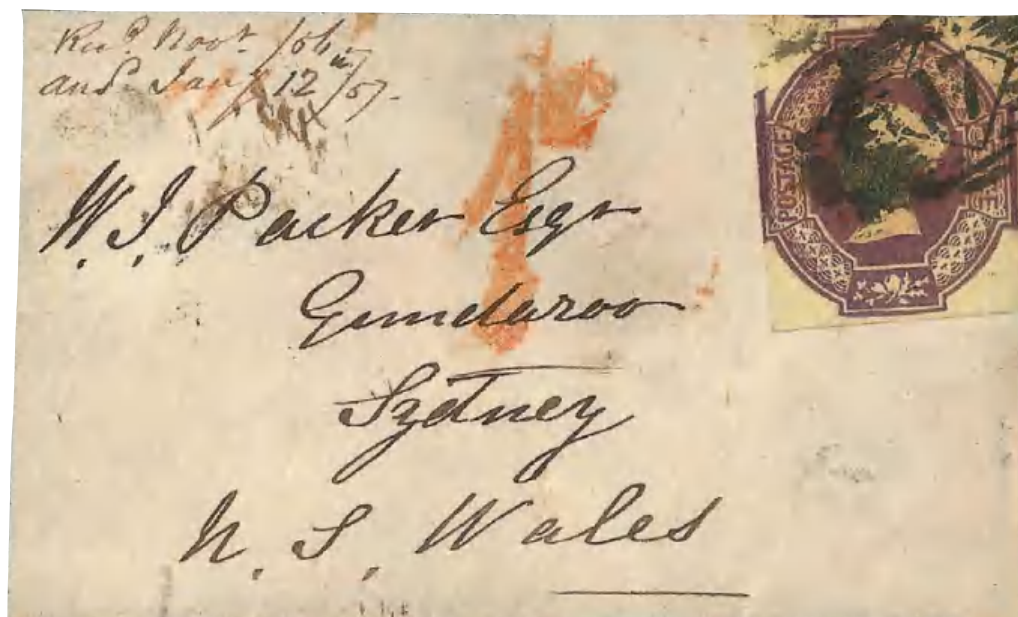
considerably from stamp to stamp and copies with top quality embossing command a premium. Catalogue values are frighteningly high. But for used stamps, retail and auction prices drop away dramatically for all but the very finest copies, until a set of three cut to shape should cost no more than £60. This rises to £300 for fine used with three margins while a fine four-margin set will cost from £750 upwards.

But if collecting for quality is going to be too much, ignore the margins and go for clear, distinctive shades, or die numbers, or interesting cancels. Just take your time, look at as many copies as you can and buy the best examples you can afford.

Overlaps with envelopes

Dies of the 1/- and 6d stamps were also used to print postal stationery envelopes. Fortunately, it's easy to tell genuine stamps from stationery cut-outs. The paper is the first 'tell' – but the dies are more interesting. Before being switched to envelopes they were additionally engraved with a date, expressed by three numerals. In the 6d, they are incorporated into the borders. In the 1/-, there are two either side of the head and one below it.

Acknowledgements: Many thanks to BC Stamps, Robert Siegel Auctions and Apex Auctions for the images used in this article. And also to the library staff at the Royal Philatelic Society London, without whom it would have been a great deal shorter.



A 6d stamp also paid for the sea route to New South Wales (image courtesy of Robert A Siegel Auctions)

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The Empire of Manchukuo

The aggressive expansion of the Japanese Empire, from the late 1800s to their defeat in the Second World War, created a host of stamp-issuing entities which can be collected by dead country specialists, writes Michael Adkins as he provides a guide to the Empire of Manchukuo, a puppet state created in Manchuria

Initially, Japan wanted to create a region on the Asian mainland to act as a buffer zone against the Russians. In 1894-95 Japan invaded Korea initiating the first Sino-Japanese War. Seeing that the world was unwilling to support a weakened China, Japan extracted harsh concessions to end the war. This gave Japanese control of Formosa (Taiwan) and the Kwantung Peninsula. Additionally Japan forced Korean 'independence' in which a Japanese puppet government was installed. Eventually, in 1910, Japan annexed Korea as part of Japan.

In 1931, Japan invaded Manchuria, and on 1 March, created the Manchu State (Manchukuo in Japanese). Attempting to establish legitimacy, the Japanese invited the last Emperor of China, Aisin Gioro Puyi who lived in the Japanese concession of Tianjin, to serve as Chief Executive. Over the life of the country, only 23 of the eighty existing nations recognised Manchukuo.

Two years later, the state was 'elevated' to the Empire of Manchukuo, and Chief Executive Puyi was crowned Emperor Kang-de. While the name changed, Manchukuo remained under firm control of Japan. Despite Puyi's interest in re-instating Chinese traditions and values, he had little real power. Assigned Japanese senior staff, he was kept on a



From left: this beautiful design featuring dragon dancers was issued on 18 September, 1940. It is part of a two stamp set which commemorates the 2600th anniversary of the founding of Imperial Japan. The traditional founding is in 660BC

• One of two stamps issued on 25 May, 1941 promoting the implementation of the National Conscription Law beginning in June, 1941 • Issued on 16 February, 1942, the overprint reads: 'Return of Singapore to East Asia, 9th year of Kang de' • Issued on 2 April, 1935, part of a set commemorating the first visit of the Emperor of Manchukuo to Japan

tight rein from Tokyo, and Manchukuo slowly became more Japanese in law, tradition and even religion.

When the Second World War broke out, Manchukuo provided Japan full support, materials and troops. Towards the end of the war, the Soviets entered the conflict in the Pacific. On 9 August, 1945, the Soviet Union declared war on Japan and invaded Manchukuo and other parts of Manchuria. This invasion was timed with the bombings in Hiroshima on 6 August and Nagasaki on 9 August. Overwhelmed, the Manchukuo army offered little resistance allowing the Soviets an easy conquest. Puyi was captured on 16 August, as he was attempting to flee to Tokyo to surrender to the Americans. The Soviets withdrew their troops in May 1946, after thoroughly plundering the region.

Over the thirteen-year history of Manchukuo, a variety of stamps were issued. While Manchukuo was not recognised by most countries, and never joined the UPU, most countries still delivered their mail.

Initially, the country only issued definitive stamps, which came in two periods. From 1932-35, lower denomination stamps featured the Pagoda at Liaoyang, and higher denominations depicted a portrait of Puyi. Beginning in 1936, definitive stamps were re-designed with various scenes of Manchukuo. Additionally, one set of four airmail stamps were issued in 1936-7.

Far more interesting are the attractive commemorative stamps. When examining Manchukuo commemoratives, one can follow many of the region's most important events.

These sets include:

- 1st Anniversary of the establishment of Manchukuo (1 March, 1933)
- Enthronement of Emperor Kang-de (1 March, 1934)
- Visit of Piyu to Tokyo (2 April, 1935)
- Postal convention with Japan (26 January, 1936)
- Fifth anniversary of Manchukuo (1 March, 1937)
- Completion of the national capital, Hsinking (16 September, 1937)
- Abolition of Japanese extraterritorial rights in Manchukuo (1 December, 1937)
- New Year's greeting (13 December, 1937)
- Founding of the Red Cross Society in Manchukuo (15 October, 1938)
- Promotion of Oct 1st census (10 September, 1940)
- 2600th Anniversary of the birth of Japan (18 September, 1940)
- Promotion of Jun 1st conscription law (25 May, 1941)
- 10th anniversary of Japanese 'formal' recognition (15 September, 1942)
- First anniversary of the 'Greater East War' (WW2) (8 December, 1942)
- Proclamation of the Compulsory Labour Service Law (1 May, 1943)
- Fifth anniversary of the Manchukuo Red Cross (1 October, 1943)
- Tenth anniversary of the Emperor's 'rescript' (2 May, 1945)

Most stamps, with a couple of exceptions, are easily collectable, readily available and inexpensive.

Next month we will take a look at a very interesting military occupation much further to the south.

Fact file

Government: Japanese Occupation

Prior Regime: Republic of China

Key Dates:

1931 – Japanese invaded Manchuria

1 March, 1932 – Manchukuo state formed by the Japanese

1 March, 1932 – The Empire of Manchukuo was proclaimed with the Coronation of Emperor Pu-Yi

8 August, 1945 – Soviet Forces Invaded Manchukuo, ending the Empire

Following Regime: Soviet Occupation of Manchuria

First Stamp Issued: 25 July, 1932





Works of art The Wilding definitives

As the Queen becomes the country's longest reigning monarch, with thousands of stamps issued during her time on the throne, Richard West looks back at the very first definitives of her reign



The poor health of King George VI meant that the Post Office started considering stamps for a new reign in September 1951. Plans were drawn up, but no action was taken at this juncture, although it was accepted that, when the time came, work would start first on the definitives in most common use.

Within a week of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II on 6 February, 1952, her Private Secretary wrote to the Post Office asking its plans for new stamps. The priority was to find a suitable photograph: a sitting took place at the Dorothy Wilding Studio on 26 February. The result was four full profiles and two three-quarter

Photographs of Queen Elizabeth II taken by Dorothy Wilding in 1952 exhibited as part of the exhibition 'The Queen: Portraits of a Monarch' shown at Windsor Castle in 2012 (Steve Parsons/PA Wire)

Trials of the Wilding 1d in black, with overprints (image courtesy BPMA, © Royal Mail)

profiles with the Queen looking to her right and wearing a tiara, all on dark and light backgrounds.

Discussions took place within the Post Office, and among initial suggestions were pictorial designs: while such ideas were rejected, it was agreed that there should be more variety of design, although the rose, shamrock, thistle and daffodil be kept. It was also agreed that the designs should include the words 'Postage' and 'Revenue'. It was hoped the colours could be better distinguishable, especially as some of the paler colours used during King George VI's reign had caused confusion, although it was appreciated that some were dictated by UPU regulations. One thought

put forward was having black as the colour of one of the stamps in the style of the Penny Black.

To assist in the design process the Post Office established an advisory panel whose members included Edmund Dulac. At its first meeting on 1 April the panel decided that a three-quarter portrait should be used although, as common practice with British definitives, it should look left and that the Queen should be seen with a coronet rather than tiara. As a result a further photographic sitting took place at the Wilding Studios on 15 April to take account of the requirements of the Post Office. From the results a photograph to be used for stamps was selected. However, Dulac – always disliking photographic portraits – asked to be allowed to produce a hand-drawn version. The resulting interpretation was not felt a suitable likeness.

75 design ideas received

On 2 May invitations to submit design ideas were sent to several artists, plus the College of Arms ►



Long to reign over us...

Over the past 63 years, stamp collectors have seen thousands of QEII stamps issued both here and across the Commonwealth, but which are the most memorable? We asked stamp experts, dealers and collectors to share their memories of that special QEII stamp



The stamp that changed my life

In 1959 a set of experimental 'Wilding' definitive stamps was issued featuring graphite lines on the reverse, phosphor bands on the front and printed on paper featuring the multiple crowns watermark, writes Allan Grant of Rushstamps. Designed to be used in the Automatic Letter Facing (ALF) machines in use at that time in Southampton, the stamps were only on sale within a thirty-mile radius of the city. But, as I discovered, during the process some sheets were erroneously printed on older paper featuring the original 1957 St Edward Crowns watermark.

In March 1960 I visited the Post Office in Totton, where I then lived, and bought twenty sets – there were eight stamps in each set – for some of my overseas customers. I soon spotted the watermark error on the 2d values and went straight back to the Post Office to buy the sixteen sheets they had left. Back then 2d stamps were also used on receipts and so there was a higher demand for the value. I realised local businesses would have bought the stamp for their own use, and so contacted these firms and offered them a shilling for each of the stamps, so I managed to secure an additional quantity. In all I managed to obtain just under 5,000 of the 2d stamps.

I contacted new issues dealer Harry Allen and they purchased some of the stamps for five shillings each, then I sent samples to Stanley Gibbons to confirm they would catalogue the variety; they did it's SG605a, then they bought some of the stamps for ten shillings each. Finally, I placed an advert in the former weekly magazine *Stamp Collecting* offering the stamps for £5 each. Today the stamps are catalogued at £180.

The discovery helped me set up my first stamp shop in Southampton and literally changed my life. Until then I was training to become a solicitor's article clerk, as per my father's wishes. He was an antique dealer, like his father before him, and I would sell stamps in my spare time from the back of his market stall in Salisbury. After the 2d discovery I packed in the legal training and became a stamp dealer and the rest, as they say, is history!

THE EXPERIMENTAL YEARS!

An exciting period in British Philately – Naphthadag, Graphite, Phosphor and don't forget ALF (automatic letter facing!).



In 1957 I serviced some of the 1st Graphite St. Edwards Wmk. set of 6 on FDC's – there was a lot of worldwide interest at that time and I supplied mint and used sets around the world to dealers at just 15% above face value, which at that time was only 10½d (5p today!). Cannot believe it was 58 years ago – this really dates me – I was still at college and gave me some extra Pocket Money! So this is how my story started and the following year Rushstamps was registered – why Rushstamps – well I lived in Rushington Avenue in Totton, so 'Rush' was most appropriate!

The Graphite stamps were only on sale within a radius of 30 miles from Southampton – this was a very busy time as only 2 Commemorative sets were issued in 1957, just one in 1958 – not like today!

ALLAN GRANT

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1958 GRAPHITE 8 Values Mult. Crown Wmk., SG 587/594 (Cheapest Wmks.) Cat. £110	£32.00	£32.00
Do. Upright Wmk. on all values (Cat. £136), SG 587/594	£49.00	£46.00
Do. Inverted Wmks. on all values, SG 587Wi-592Wi (Cat. £145)	£49.00	£42.00
1959 PHOSPHOR-GRAPHITE 8 Values, SG 599-609 (Cat. £90)	£37.00	£32.00
Do. the 2d Wmk. Error, St. Edwards Wmk. instead of Crowns, SG 605a (Cat. £200)	£85.00	£64.00
1960 PHOSPHOR ONLY Basic 17 Values, SG 610a-618a (Cat. £10.50)	£2.95	£3.50
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Timeless elegance

My favourite QEII stamp has to be Edmund Dulac's 1/3 coronation commemorative from 1953, writes Chris West. It has a timeless elegance, with its near symmetry and beautiful sense of background and foreground: the monarch stands out in the way she does on few other stamps. Yet at the same time it is radical in its design: the new, young queen is looking straight at us, something that monarchs on stamps had not done before that time (except on another Dulac design, for her father's coronation). Sadly Dulac never lived to see the stamp in use: he died on May 25, two weeks before the event celebrated on it. I hope he did at least see advanced copies of his masterpiece.

Royal stamp beauty

Queen Elizabeth II has probably featured on more postage stamps than any other person in history. Several portraits have been



used including the ubiquitous Machin medallion. However, my personal favourite is Pietro Annigoni's painting of the Queen, writes Christer Brunström. The painting has been used for stamps from several British territories including Norfolk Island. Shown here is a stamp issued by Norfolk Island in 1960 to mark the introduction of local government. It was designed and engraved by Peter Morris who very cleverly combined a map of the island with the Annigoni portrait of a very young Queen. In my opinion, this is a design which ranks among the very best in the world.

Pietro Annigoni (1910-1988) was an Italian portrait painter. His portrait of the young Queen was finished in 1956 and it made him world famous. Today the portrait can be seen in the Fishmongers Hall in London. In the 1950s and 60s, Australian Peter Morris designed and engraved some eighty stamps for Australia and its territories while working for the Note Printing Branch, Melbourne. Fortunately we stamp collectors can easily add this masterpiece to our stamp albums for just a few pounds.



and the four main stamp printers (Harrison and Sons; Bradbury, Wilkinson; De La Rue; Waterlow and Sons), with artwork required by 30 June. There were 75 designs received. All were viewed by the Post Office, with advice from Harrison and Sons on suitability for photogravure printing. The designs were also shown to the advisory panel of the Council of Industrial Design, which at the time always offered its suggestions to the Post Office. The outcome was a short-list of nine designs. For this, the chosen designers were Enid Marx, M.C. Farrar-Bell (whose work was submitted by Harrison and Sons), George Knipe, Mary Adshead and Edmund Dulac. Interestingly, the Knipe design has the value in words rather than numerals.

Initially it was planned that the values would be from 1/2d to 1/-; however, changes to postal rates in May 1952 resulted in 1/3 and 1/6 values being added. Priority was given to producing the 1 1/2d and 2 1/2d values; during the essay stage the colour of the 2 1/2d was amended from a red-brown to a stronger magenta. Colours were selected for the other values, mainly as issued, but initially with three exceptions. Thought was given to having the 1/3 in steel-blue and the 1/6 in bronze-green – and the 1d in black. Black was abandoned, because of the difficulty not only with cancellation, but also with the overprints needed for the British postal agencies overseas.

The 1 1/2d and 2 1/2d were issued on 5 December, 1952; the other values

appeared during 1953 to early 1954, with the 9d, 10d and 11d rounding off the series on 8 February, 1954. A 4 1/2d value was added on 9 February, 1959. In the British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA) there is an essay for a 1/9 value: this denomination was introduced with the Machin definitives in 1967. Early in 1959 it was decided not to print any more of the 11d value as demand had declined: the final sheets were destroyed in October 1964.

Shade and paper changes

Shade changes occurred over the years. Following the change from cream to white paper, it proved very difficult for the printers, Harrison and Sons, to match the colour of the 2d: it was therefore changed to a lighter red-brown. With the increase in the basic letter rate to 4d (effective from 17 May, 1965), it was decided to issue this stamp in a deeper blue: this was achieved by a deeper etching of the cylinder rather than a change of ink. From 8 May, 1958 it was decided to change the shade of the 6d from deep claret to reddish-purple, but no reason can be found in the Archives.

When initially issued the stamps were printed on paper with a multiple Tudor Crown EIIR watermark. This watermark was not liked by all, so was changed to a multiple St Edward's Crown, still with EIIR. However, with the introduction of the Regional definitives, it was realised that on stamps for Scotland the inclusion of 'EIIR' would be inappropriate:



Six colour trials for a 1/9d-value in the Edmund Dulac design.



Cover from Kenya

I started working at Benham in 1985 and having spent some of my childhood living in a village just down the road from Sandringham, royalty issues have always had a special interest for me, writes Brian Austin.

Cath and Tony Buckingham were, and still are, trying to take covers that 'little bit further'. So the one that stands out in my mind is the 1992 Fortieth Anniversary of the Accession issue. A small box of covers, after being postmarked here, was packed up and sent to Kenya to be postmarked there, which is of course where Her Majesty was when she received the news of her father's death and the that she had become Queen.

Sending out covers like this were always a big gamble, 25 years ago you did not know if you would ever see the covers again or what the postmarks would be like, but they all arrived safely back with a nice Nairobi, Kenya CDS.

the EIIR was therefore removed from the watermark, this watermark being referred to as 'Multiple Crowns'.

The change from cream to white paper occurred for two reasons. It was noticed that heavy rain cleansed the water supply to the paper mill at Ivybridge Mills in Devon, giving the paper a whiter look. Also the rag waste used in paper manufacture was containing increasing residues of detergents. So it was decided to adopt white wove instead of cream wove paper. On just one occasion a chalk-surfaced paper was used: for the ½d and 2½d stamps in the 2/- 'Holiday' books of stamps issued in July 1963.

Surprisingly the Wilding definitives do not enjoy the following as their Machin replacements. However, they provide much of interest, whether from normal counter sheets, booklets or rolls. There is a range of constant varieties and marginal markings. Of particular interest is the phantom 'R' found in the Jubilee line on the 3d with Multiple Crowns watermark. It was long realised that the multipositive contained more images than needed to create a cylinder from which stamps are printed. Partly exposing the 'R' of the 'E' and 'R' in

the top corners of the 3d proved that the multipositive comprised at least one further row of images.

Errors, mainly missing perforations but occasionally tête-bêche from miscut booklet panes, are known. However, the 3d 'Multiple Crowns' is known in either state from sheets that were not properly issued. An imperforate sheet of the 2d in light red-brown with St Edward's Crown watermark was discovered and purchased by the staff at a post office in Dartford in Kent: this is similarly not regarded as having been properly issued.

Automatic letter facing

Perhaps the most significant development during the life of the 'Wildings' was that of graphite lines leading to phosphor. The Post Office had long wanted to be able to automatically turn envelopes so that in a stack all were positioned with the address upright and the stamp in the top right hand corner. This would ease both the cancelling of the stamp and the reading of the address. Trials had started in 1937, but were naturally halted during the War. After the War the work resumed at the Post Office Research Laboratories at Dollis Hill, with the aim of developing equipment that would detect the stamp on envelopes. This would be achieved by looking in the top right hand corner, turning each envelope until the stamp was located. Various means were tried, until the autumn of 1956 when the researches led to the use of graphite lines printed on the back of stamps under the gum. The substance tested was Deflocculated Acheson's Graphite (known as 'dag') suspended in the liquid naphtha, the resulting liquid being known as naphthadag. However, after the stamps had been issued Harrison and Sons revealed that it used an alternative graphite and not Acheson's.

Live trials were planned for the autumn of 1957, it being felt helpful to include the Christmas period. Liverpool was chosen, but lack of space in the sorting office meant the honours went to Southampton. The stamps with graphite lines, in values from ½d to 3d, were issued on 19 November and distributed within a 25-mile radius of Southampton. These were produced in sheets and rolls and all had St Edward's Crown watermark. The automatic letter facing equipment (ALF) for which the stamps were required was brought into use on 7 December, although officially the first

What a brick!

In the context of this now somewhat arcane expression, the word 'brick' means someone who is reliable and dependable. And if there is one person in the United Kingdom who deserves this accolade it must surely be our Queen, writes John Scott.

During her long reign we have witnessed very substantial changes in the way in which people communicate and one of the casualties has been the postage due stamp which would have celebrated its centenary in 2014.

The speed of change in the postal system means that postal history from this century is likely to be considerably rarer as time goes by than that of the nineteenth century and this is certainly true of the last issue of postage due stamps which survived for a mere six years before being abolished on 28 January, 2000.

The cover illustrated here actually contained a miniature brick and was posted by the author to another eminent postal historian in a bid to obtain postage due stamps on their last day of validity. While contrived in a sense, the treatment of the envelope was beyond our control but obviously the staff at Mount Pleasant had a sense of history and the cachet and datestamp were struck immaculately. Fortunately the staff at Wiveliscombe inadvertently added the surcharge fee to the total amount due to arrive at a charge of £1.01 instead of the correct 81p and hence the presence of the £1 'To Pay' adhesive. The premature death of the postage due was a sad day for philatelists but fortunately the Queen lives on to fight another day.



A beautiful series

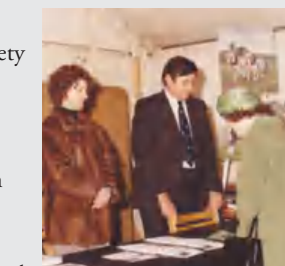
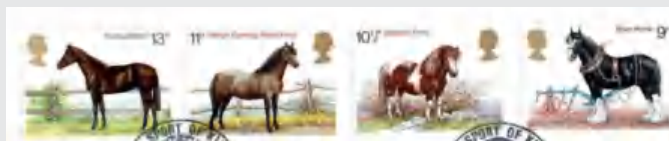
As a new subscriber to *Stamp & Coin Mart*, I thought, what a great idea to ask which QEII was everyone's favourite, writes reader John Murphy of New York. I am a collector from the United States but the bulk of my collection is made up from Britain and the Commonwealth. I inherited most of my earlier stamps from my grandfather who emigrated from Malta in 1916. I always loved the Queen Victoria and kings stamps, but then a few years ago when I retired and began purchasing lots and packets again, I discovered my new love. While not a single QEII stamp, it is an area I never tire of. I am referring to the Machin series.

It is a simple design and yet the portrait and colour types are the most beautiful of any stamps I have ever collected or ever will. I am especially taken with the anniversary of the 1840 Penny Black series with both Queens Elizabeth and Victoria together. I even tracked down and purchased the anniversary packets produced by your postal service. Every time I order lots or collections and see an envelope with Machins, I put everything else aside and sort through them first. Even if I have the majority I am still like a kid in a candy store every time I receive them. For a long while I thought my collecting days had run their course, and then this gem came into my life. Truly a beautiful series I hope they never stop producing.



Year of the horse

During 1978 the Shire Horse Society celebrated its centenary and were pleased to announce that HM Queen Elizabeth II would act as the Society President for the special year, writes Arthur Melville-Brown. To honour the centenary, Royal Mail issued four stamps featuring horses. My wife and I, as directors of Stamp Publicity (Worthing) Ltd, were appointed as the official first day cover producers for the Society, to represent them at every major horse show in the country, opening with the first special show at the Society's headquarters in Peterborough on 22 March, 1978. An official series of special event covers were produced for these shows and included the official first day cover on the 5 July, 1978. The picture here shows the Queen inspecting the covers at our display at the Peterborough Show, and at the end of the summer, at the Royal



Windsor Horse Show, she again visited our display and wanted to know if we had had a successful season.



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'77 AUSTRALIA TEST CRICKET SHORT SET(5)	U 38P	'95 LAOS CATS	(5) U 76P
'79 AUSTRALIA NATIONAL PARKS	(7) U 58P	'96 LAOS HORSES	(5) U 59P
'84 AUSTRALIA VINTAGE CARS	(5) U 55P	'97 LAOS ELEPHANTS	(6) U 85P
'89 AUSTRALIA TRAMS	(5) U 68P	'85 MALAGASY EXPO - ANIMALS	(5) U 85P
'68 AUMAN MEXICO OLYMPICS	(8) U 42P	'70 MALAYSIA BFLIES S/SET TO \$5	(7) U 98P
'55 ARGENTINA QUIET SUN	(3) M 75P	'81 MONTERRAT FISH SHORT SET	(8) M 275P
'59 ARGENTINA PAN AMERICAN GAMES	(5) M 98P	'74 MONGOLIA GAME RESERVES	(7) U 88P
'64 ARGENTINA TOKYO OLYMPICS	(3) M 85P	'86 MONGOLIA MINK	(4) U 55P
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'66 CYPRUS EUROPA	(3) M 125P	'60 N.Z. WESTLAND	(3) M 65P
'68 CYPRUS EUROPA	(3) M 85P	'65 N.Z. C.WEALTH PARL.	(3) M 145P
'84 DJIBOUTI BUTTERFLIES	(5) U 82P	'68 N.Z. ARMED FORCES	(3) M 48P
'66 DUBAI GEMINI SPACE 208/B	(6) U 165P	'60 PALESTINE REFUGEE YEAR	(2) M 58P
'37 EGYPT OPHTHALMIC	(3) M 195P	'67 POLAND BUTTERFLIES	(9) U 98P
'51 EGYPT ROYAL WEDDING	(1) M 145P	'66 RUSSIA SPACE 3313/7	(5) U 48P
'53 EGYPT £E1 NEFERTITI	(1) U 50P	'83 RUSSIA FISH	(5) M 140P
'40 EGYPT POST CENT.	(4) M 85P	'82 ST VINCENT DIANA'S 21ST	(3) M 68P
'59 EGYPT 7TH ANNIV. REV.	(6) U 85P	'61 SWISS SAINTS-WOOD CARVINGS	(4) U 135P
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day was 19 December, on which occasion the operations were witnessed by the Postmaster General, Ernest Marples, and members of the Press.

Later the six values, plus the 4d and 4½d, appeared with Multiple Crowns watermark. However, the 1½d was only thus issued in booklets, and the ½d and 1d only in booklets and rolls.

The experiments were not a huge success for various reasons, while the Post Office was not happy at the cost of printing on both sides of the paper. Trials continued to find an alternative – that could be applied to the face of the stamps. The answer was found with phosphor. However, as phosphor was also being considered for postal coding, it was imperative the two were distinctive. That initially used for stamps was given the name ‘Lettalite 1’ and gave a greenish-blue afterglow when subjected to ultra-violet light.

As it was not possible to covert all the scanners to use phosphor on the equipment in use at Southampton at the same time, it was necessary to have stamps that could utilise both graphite lines and phosphor. So Harrison and Sons overprinted the remaining sheet stock of graphite lined stamps with phosphor bands: it was not possible to overprint the stamps in booklets and rolls. The phosphor-graphite stamps were issued on 18 November, 1959.

On 18 January, 1960 ALF was taken out of action, and remained so until 6 July, 1960, by which time it had been converted to read phosphor only, and hopefully all graphite-lined stamps had been used. Phosphor only stamps were first issued on 22 June, 1960 with gradually all values up to 1/6 being so released. The use of phosphor has continued ever since.

In 1967 a new definitive series was launched using the portrait of the Queen by Arnold Machin. However, some of the Wilding designs (albeit now with decimal denominations) made a re-appearance in ‘The Wilding definitives’ prestige stamp book issued on 10 March, 1998, and the subsequent ‘A Gracious Accession’ and ‘A perfect Coronation’ prestige books, and in fiftieth anniversary miniature sheets in 2002 and 2003 reproducing all the basic stamps.

Information for this article has been obtained from the British Postal Museum & Archive.

Machin an impression

My most memorable QEII stamp collecting moment is easy to pick, as it is was the moment I came back to philately, writes Adrian Keppel. As a kid I collected stamps, as we all did. Though I would mainly concentrate on Dutch stamps, I also had this album with ‘all world’ stamps. Even then I was mainly interested in long definitive sets. I loved all those series of one design, with all those different values and colours.

I lost interest somewhere in my twenties, as we all seem to do, and it was not until the mid 1990s, when I started coming to the UK much more often, that my interest was rekindled. What brought that about? Well, one day I picked up this stamp magazine and read about this 2p stamp with the Queen’s head on. It was printed in the Netherlands and came with white or blue gum. This little snippet of info got me hooked, and I’ve never looked back since.



Cycle stamps

On 2 August, 1978, Royal Mail issued four stamps on my collecting theme of Cycling, writes Brian Sole. I purchased sets of the new stamps and bought six copies of the 3 August issue of *Stamp Collecting Weekly*, a day early, with a free Bicycle Stamps black print in each.

Later, the stamp designer Fritz Wegner signed a set of cycle postcards for me. I also wrote for a cycling cover with a Bill Tidy cartoon and received No 011 of a limited edition of 500, with a note: ‘If you want No 001, you will have to negotiate with HM the Queen!’



The Tristan eruption

As a schoolboy it was the stamps of remote islands that fascinated me most, writes Richard West. So I was affected by the news in early October 1961 from the South Atlantic island of Tristan da Cunha. A volcanic eruption forced the islanders to leave their home, evacuated first to South Africa and then to Calshot near Southampton.



Attention focused on the relatively few stamps that had appeared, especially those issued as recently as 15 April, 1961 when the island adopted South African currency.

However, more excitement would follow. The Governor of St Helena decided to overprint four values of the Tristan definitives held on the island with ‘Tristan Relief’. The stamps were issued on 12 October without authorisation from the UK. The Governor then misinterpreted an instruction from the Commonwealth Office and withdrew the stamps on 19 October, destroying the unsold stock. Just 434 complete sets were sold, making it one of the scarcest QEII issues. In 2006 I was fortunate to spend a week on Tristan da Cunha.

A millennium success

The two-year Millennium stamp series attracted a great deal of criticism at the time, recalls David Bailey. Not all the designs were successful, but this one was. The Patients’ Tale of March 1999 featured advances in medicine and cartoonist Peter Brookes illustrated Edward Jenner’s development of the smallpox vaccine. Jenner had noticed that milkmaids very seldom caught smallpox, but they had all suffered a minor affliction called cowpox, which they caught from cows and which seemed to confer immunity. Jenner tested this by injecting a young lad called James Phipps with cowpox. James was later proved to be immune from smallpox and Jenner described his treatment as a ‘vaccine’, from the Latin word vacca, which means ‘cow’. That’s quite a complicated story, eighty words at least. But look at the detail in the drawing. It’s all there.



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SNP 12 SCOTLAND – The Special Commemorative cover for the Scottish National Parties Landslide Victory in Scotland; winning virtually 95% of seats. The cover depicts Nicola Sturgeon (SNP Party Leader) and bears Royal Mail Heraldic Lion stamp and official Edinburgh Postmark dated 7/5/15. The cover is sought after in Scotland and elsewhere as only 50 were produced at the time. Price £13.75

IOM 8. ISLE OF MAN – Queen Victoria Illustrated commemorative cover for the 175th Anniv. of the world's first stamp. The impressive cover bears a block of six penny black stamps and one two penny blue stamp tied to the cover with 6th May IOM Anniv. pmks. Only 100 of this cover were postmarked by the IOM Post Office Price £9.25

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PRC 10. CHINA – A glorious collection of stamps of China. Mostly People's Republic of China, with interesting group of Hong Kong Stamps; also China Stamp Booklets. Mint Complete sheet noted some odd Macau, Several China Miniature Sheets and China First Day Covers. Noted better overprinted stamps, East China 1949 Mao Tse Tung & General Zhu. A highly recommended lot with hundreds of China stamps not counting complete China stamp booklets, miniature sheets and FDC's Price £37

LUS 3. RMS LUSITANIA – Special commemorative cover for the centenary of the sinking of the Lusitania. Only 100 covers in existence. Superbly illustrated for the tragic event that brought America into World War I. The cover bears a Royal Mail Navy Ensign Stamp with the 7th May 2015 Lusitania illustrated Royal Mail Liverpool pmk Price £8.75

JK 106. HARRY POTTER – A fantastic collection of different Harry Potter stamps from various countries. Includes a scarce Isle of Man Prisoner of Azkaban cover with I.O.M. Harry Potter stamp in combination with official Royal Mail Harry Potter stamp, postmarked with illustrated first day issue, Hogwarts postmark. The collection also includes unmounted mint Royal Mail Harry Potter stamps and miniature sheets from various countries, includes catalogued and scarcer unlisted issues the whole collection Price £19.75

SA4 NELSON MANDELA – A historic and scarce mourning cover for Nelson Mandela. 'His was a spirit born free, today his spirit is soaring through the heavens. He is now forever free' – Muhammad Ali 5/12/13. The cover bears a South Africa Mandela stamp with cachet 'In Memorial 1918-2013' also Royal Mail gold definitive postmarked Mount Pleasant 5/12/13. Only 50 covers known to exist Price £14.

GB85 GREAT BRITAIN – An important error on the 1966 Battle of Hastings 6d. value. The wrong colour gold leaf was used in error on the Queens Head. Error – yellow gold instead of normal bronze gold. We can offer the unmounted mint error plus normal stamp for comparison Price £7.50

LA39K BRITISH ISLES – A phenomenal & valuable collection of British Local Island's stamps. Only unmounted mint, including Lundy Island, Davaar Island, Cairn Iar, Isle of Easdale, Bernera Island, Staffa, Strom, Isle of Pabay, Bardsey, Herm, Calif of Man, Hildasay – Shetland Islands, Jethou, Brechou, Alderney, St Kilda, St Marys, Calvey Island, Sanda Island, Gugh, St Martins. With blocks, multiples, singles & miniature sheets. This important & valuable collection with only unmounted mint stamps and many high £ values. The nominal face value is well over £200 Price £47.25.

GB5 GB WINSTON CHURCHILL D-DAY COVER – A spectacular cover and valuable addition to any WWII Collection. The cover is inscribed 70th Anniv. Of D-Day 6th June 1944. Illustrated with Churchill Downing Street 1940's Photograph, and Churchill's Quote: "And what a plan! This vast operation is undoubtedly the most complicated and difficult that has ever occurred." The cover bears a combination of Royal Mail, Churchill and D-Day stamps. With official Royal Mail, British Forces 3173 Postal Services postmark, D-Day 6th June 2014. The cover also bears original King Geo VI GPO stamps, with horizontal cachet inscribed "D-Day The Longest Day" in black. The cover issue was restricted to 100 covers only Price £13.75

M27A CORONATION STREET. – A specialised and most unusual thematic collection of Coronation street stamps with COMPLETE UNM. MINT SETS. From various British local Islands, including scarcer High Values and several £1.00 values. Personalities depicted on stamps include: Jack & Annie Walker, Stan & Hilda Ogden, Ken & Irma Barlow, Jack & Vera Duckworth, Martha Longhurst, Ena Sharples, Mike & Alma Baldwin, Kevin Webster, Raquel Wolstenholme, Ray Langton, Liz McDonald, Alf Roberts, Bet Gilroy, Curly Watts, Leonard Swindly, Elsie Tanner, Reg Holdworth + others Price £12.00

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LIB 92. LIBYA – War in Libya, Liberation Cover. An unusual cover inscribed Official Liberation Day with iconic illustration. The cover has Machin Royal Mail stamps and official Royal Mail British Jubilee postmark dated, 23 Oct 2011 (Libya Liberation Day). The cover also bears a Libya Col. Gaddafi stamp tied to cover with cachet inscribed Oct 2011 Libya. An unusual and important cover Price £14.50

R88A NAZI GERMAN – Occupation of World War II various Croatia Bohemia and Moravia. Occupation of Poland General government (Theresienstadt also Lodz Ghetto these may not be genuine) plus various other Germany war period Hitler issues. Mainly genuine unmounted mint/used Price £10.

HRH7 RARE ROYAL COVER – Extremely rare Royal Cover for HRH Prince George. This superbly illustrated, Royal Baby, Official first day cover, bears a gutter pair originally printed for Princess Diana's 21st birthday, which was overprinted for the birth of her son Prince William dated 19/07/1982, the cover was re-posted with Royal Mail stamps of three generations: Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Charles & Prince William. Officially postmarked by the Royal Mail for Prince George's christening on 23/10/13 at St James' Palace London. The cover has been signed by the stamp designer – only 40 of this rare cover are understood to exist and are destined to be vital to any future Prince William and Prince George stamp collections Price £19.75.

LOT K2 GREAT BRITAIN UNMOUNTED MINT COMMEMORATIVES & DEFINITIVES & DEFINITIVES UNSORTED ACCUMULATION. Items noted include Traffic Light Gutter Pair Missing Phosphor Error volt strips. Well over 500 stamps only unmounted mint Price £15

MM28 MARILYN MONROE – A gorgeous collection of Marilyn Monroe stamps. Few other actresses embodies the term 'Hollywood Movie Star' as much as the legendary and iconic screen goddess, Marilyn Monroe. This collection contains many different unmounted mint and used Marilyn Monroe stamps. Including several elusive stamps Price £11

JB 773 JAMES BOND – An outstanding collection of James Bond Stamps. Includes official James Bond combination cover bearing Ian Fleming's iconic James Bond book issue, with first day of issue 8/1/2008 Royal Mail postmark. The cover was reposted on 1/5/2012 (four years later) with Royal Mail "British Hero James Bond 50th Anniv Postmark" The James Bond Collection continues with many unmounted Mint James Bond Commemorative Stamps and Miniature Sheets: Including, scarcer unlisted issues from various countries Price £26

PA 22 BAHAWALPUR, PAKISTAN & BANGLADESH. – A collection with hundreds of different Bangladesh also Pakistan, with mint and used stamps up to modern, but noted King George VI Bahawalpur unmounted mint dating back to 1948. A fine collection of hundreds of different stamps Price £12.25

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SP27X SPACE – Space, the final frontier. A small but impressive collection of outer space and space exploration camps. Including original 1969 moon landing cover and People's Republic of China space covers. Over 100+ mint and used stamps and miniature sheets. Noted mint Royal Mail issues for Planetary Nebula in Norma & Aquila, Seyfert 2 Galaxy in Circinus, Pegasus Galaxy. Also Russia mint issue for Yuri Gagarin, first man in space. A lovely lot. Price £14.50.

GB.51 - GREAT BRITAIN – Scarce Festival of Britain Commem. Cover. Bearing the Abram Games stamp designer official Royal Mail Commem. Stamp cancelled with iconic Festival of Britain 25/3/14 Postmark. The cover also bears the complete King George VI 1951 Festival stamps with black cachet "G.P.O. 1951 Festival of Britain Official Stamp Issue". The edition was limited to only 100 of these important covers Price £11.25

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A stamp revolution

Around 1966, an entire nation went mad, writes Chris West. The nation just happened to be the world's most populous: China. Stamps, as usual, give the thoughtful viewer insight into the story

If you look at Chinese stamps from, say, 1964, you find a range of topics: peonies, bronzeware from the 3,000-year-old Shang Dynasty, architecture and, of course, propaganda. Two years on, the often delicate colours of some of these issues have gone; instead, bright red, as in this stamp, reigns supreme. There is only one topic, propaganda, and only one subject of that propaganda, Chairman Mao Zedong (or Mao Tse-tung, depending on how you translate Chinese sounds into Western writing) the man at the centre of this stamp.

The cause of the madness was the 'Cultural Revolution', an attempt by Mao to shake out his enemies within the Communist Party. The weapon he chose was the young, who were suddenly told to disrespect their teachers, parents and local Party leaders and become Red Guards, fanatics loyal only to Mao. In 1966, millions of these youngsters descended on Beijing to participate in

huge rallies in Tiananmen Square. In their pockets would have been the 'Little Red Book' held up in this stamp by a 'model' worker and, behind Mao, his Deputy, Lin Biao (Lin Piao). This contained various 'Thoughts' of the Chairman.

Red Guards were instructed to destroy the 'Four Olds' (customs, habits, culture and ideas) in every way they could. Many cultural relics were smashed or burnt, including stamp collections: philately was seen as a backward-looking 'bourgeois' activity. Owners of such relics were often beaten up or killed.

By the middle of 1967, China had descended into anarchy, with street gun-battles between rival Red Guard factions and many workplaces closed or paralyzed by political infighting. It took a year for the Army to start restoring order, and Mao declared the Cultural Revolution over in 1969. Chinese stamps begin to 'calm down' around this time; by 1971, other people are appearing on them. Philatelists regard the nineteen sets that appeared between 1967 and 1971 as



The slogan at the bottom of this stamp means 'Long Live the Complete Victory of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution!' Politically, this was not the case, but philatelically, one has to agree

the classic Cultural Revolution issues.

In 1973, a series featuring cute pandas appeared, signalling, perhaps, a final end to the madness.

Deputy Lin Biao did not live to stick a cute panda on a letter. The Chairman, ruthless as ever, passed the blame for the Cultural Revolution onto him. In 1971, Lin was killed in a mysterious plane crash in Mongolia, apparently fleeing the country with his wife and son. He was then subject to a bizarre official campaign of vilification: 'Criticize Confucius and Lin Biao'. Mao himself died in 1976 – of old age.

This stamp, for the standard letter rate of 8 fen (cents), was scheduled to be issued at the height of the craziness, in 1968. However at the last moment it was withdrawn – nobody knows why. A post office in Hebei (the province that surrounds Beijing) had already sold some, however.

With the rising prosperity of China in the 2000s, demand for Cultural Revolution stamps began to skyrocket. A mint corner block of four of the above issue sold for HK\$6 million (approximately £508,393) in 2010. Since then, the market has undergone a correction, but the era's stamps are still expensive. A mint set of the 1967 issue showing fourteen poems by Mao will cost several thousand pounds, as will another set of five from the following year, also showing his calligraphy. Lin Biao's calligraphy also made it onto a couple of stamps: two poems in praise of guess who...

In their pockets would have been the 'Little Red Book' held up in this stamp by a 'model' worker and, behind Mao, his Deputy, Lin Biao (Lin Piao). This contained various 'Thoughts' of the Chairman.



A poster from the period showing Mao in the foreground, ahead of marching crowds of celebratory workers

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Austria's stamp day

Established as one of the longest running series in the world, Austria's 'Stamp Day' stamps have given collectors the chance to form a simple but rewarding collection, as Richard Tarrant explains



Austria began issuing stamps in 1850. A prolific producer of stamps, it established a reputation for high quality and many regard their earlier line-engraved issues as some of the most beautiful ever produced.

The Republic of Austria was established on 14 May, 1945. Between then and its first Stamp Day stamp in 1949 Austria had produced a large number of stamps (over 300) compared, for instance, with Great Britain's issue of just thirteen in the same period. Perhaps surprisingly, and certainly to its credit, the Austrian stamps of the period maintained excellent quality, exemplified by the much admired costumes series.

Austria first celebrated the Day of the Stamp (or Stamp Day) on the 1 December, 1935 but did not issue a stamp to mark that occasion or any subsequent Stamp Day until 3 December, 1949. It has produced a Stamp Day issue every year since,

From left: the 2000 stamp completed the series with two letter 'E's; the 1995 stamp with letters 'F' and 'A'; the first Austrian Stamp Day stamp, issued 3 December, 1949, showing a laurel branch, magnifying glass and three covers, each of which bore the 1933 charity stamp issued to mark the Vienna International Philatelic Stamp Exhibition (WIPA); the 1950 stamp, issued the day after the opening of the 'Day of the Stamp' exhibition; 1967 stamp with an illustration from an early playing card to depict a letter carrier

1960 (right) and 1975 issues, the reproducing classic Austrian stamps

with just five exceptions, making it one of the longest running series of stamps in the world and one that is well worth collecting. Nearly all Stamp Day stamps have been surcharged and the money raised devoted to the promotion of stamp collecting as a hobby.

The first Stamp Day issue depicted a laurel branch, a magnifying glass and three covers, each of which bore the 1933 charity stamp issued to mark the Vienna International Philatelic Stamp Exhibition (WIPA). This was the first of a number of Austrian Stamp Day issues that are sought by collectors of the 'stamps on stamps' theme.

The 'Day of the Stamp' exhibition opened on 1 December, 1950 and the Stamp Day issue, with a denomination of 60+15g as in the previous year, came out the following day (pictured above). It pictured a stamp collector examining a cover under a magnifying glass, an open stamp album, and a large map in the background.

There was no Stamp Day stamp in 1951, the next such issue taking place

in March 1952, when the stamp showed Cupid and a letter, while the 1953 stamp depicted a globe over an open stamp album, accompanied by tweezers and a magnifying glass.

From 1954 until 1991 the subject designs varied between themes. The 1954 stamp pictured the Ulmer Ordinari, an 18th-century passenger raft that carried mail during the early years of the Austrian Post Office, long before stamps were used for the prepayment of postage.

The year 1957 saw the first of several stamps that depicted post offices, with Linz post office in that year being followed by Kitzbühel in 1958, Rust post office in 1961 and Vienna 101 post office in 1963, although this also pictured West Station and train shed in the foreground. Postbuses first featured in 1964, with two vehicles standing outside the St Gilgen post bus station, and appeared again in 1978 with an illustration of a 1913 post bus. Other forms of mail transport have frequently appeared, such as a mail coach (1974), aeroplanes (1989 and 2004-2006), trains, railway carriages and postal wagons (2001-2003 and 2010-2013), and ships and boats (2007-2009).

Stamp collecting stamps

Stamp collecting has been the design theme from time to time. The twentieth anniversary of Stamp Day in 1955 pictured a young person looking through his stamp album, while the 1960 issue depicted an examination of the proof of an engraved stamp through a magnifying glass. An engraver at



work on a stamp design featured in 1962, while the 1975 issue celebrated the 125th anniversary of the issue of the first Austrian postage stamps by illustrating three stamps from the past. The 1983 stamp showed a young boy looking at a stamped cover, while the 1990 issue pictured a number of motifs that symbolized thematic stamp collections, such as railways, butterflies, minerals and dogs.

The Stamp Day issues between 1983 and 1989 can be seen as a series in its own right. In spite of the variety of subjects, ranging from illustrations of a Nuremberg letter carrier to a railway mail van being loaded at Pardubitz station in 1914, they have a common design feature. Each has the main illustration within an oval vignette, while outside the vignette there are design elements related to the subject of the illustration. The 1989 issue broke the long-established practice of the Stamp Day issue being on sale in November or December each year, since when May or June has been favoured.

Ingenius designs

The most novel and ambitious theme for Stamp Day issues was clearly that of stamps issued between 1991 and 2000, which, incidentally, included the only Stamp Day issues not to have borne a surcharge, namely those of 1997 to 2000. Each year's stamp featured two letters, which, when all ten had been issued, spelled out the words 'BRIEFMARKE' and 'PHILATELIE' ('STAMPS' and 'PHILATELY'). The series is remarkable for the ingenuity of the designs. All ten stamps were designed by Otto Stefferl, who also engraved five of them, the designs including representations of calligraphy, mosaic, fantasy, and floral decoration. It is a series that would grace any collection.

In 2001 to 2003 collectors saw a series of Stamp Day issues devoted to rail wagons used for conveying the post, each stamp having a se-tenant label showing cancellations. The following three years (2004-2006) shared a common design and illustrated a mail plane, a flying boat and an Airbus respectively. Annual issues since then concentrated on mail



Origins of Stamp Day

In 1933, Hans von Rudolphi, a retired major and philatelist, suggested the establishment of an annual Day of Stamp Collecting. He proposed that the day should be on 7 January, which was the date of birth of Heinrich von Stephan, the organiser of the German postal system and co-founder of the Universal Postal Union.



Germany, in fact, organised a Stamp Day on 7 January, 1936, (above is a 'Tag der Briefmarke' stamp from 1951) but Austria favoured a December date and, on 1st December 1935, under the auspices of the Austrian Philatelic Clubs Association, became the first country to establish a Stamp Day.

The Stamp Day concept was discussed by the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP), the world federation for philately, at its congress in 1936 and recommended that members organise events, the date to be the first Sunday after the 7 January each year. At the 1937 FIP congress, the decision was made to leave it to member states to decide on the date of their events.

Over the years more than 120 countries have had Stamp Days with the aim of promoting stamp collecting. There have been exhibitions and the issue of stamps, special cancellations and covers. Among the more notable producers of such stamps have been Czechoslovakia, East and West Germany, Belgium, Hungary and Switzerland.

Left, from top: the 1953 Stamp Day issue emphasised the universal nature of stamp collecting with its depiction of a globe; the 1991 stamp was the first in a series of ten that in their entirety spelled out the words 'BRIEFMARKE' and 'PHILATELIE'; the 1992 stamp illustrated the letters 'R' and 'H'; the 1999 stamp with letters 'K' and 'I'

Left: the 1985 and 1986 stamps which formed part of a series of similar designs issued between 1983 and 1989

transport, including ships and trains, until the 2014 issue that illustrated the Austrian state of Vorarlberg.

What of the five years when there were no Stamp Day issues? The lack of a stamp in 1951 was probably due to the 1949 and 1950 stamps having been devoted to help finance the 1950 Day of the Stamp exhibition and no decision having been made at that time to make Stamp Day issues a permanent annual feature. The other four 'missing years' saw stamp-related issues rather than stamps specifically for Stamp Day. In 1971 that took the form of a stamp to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Austrian Philatelic Clubs Association, while the 1979, 1980 and 1981 Stamp Day stamps were foregone in favour of issues (two single stamps and a miniature sheet) to support the 1981 WIPA 1981 International Stamp Exhibition.

SAM.1. POLAND - small general collection, include - Nazi Occupation Concentration Camp issue inscribed "Judenpost" for Lodz Ghetto (Litzmanstet) 10pf Green (unused). We cannot guarantee this item but remainder of the collection all seem OK Cheap Price £8.75

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SAM.26 AUSTRIA & HUNGARY - Mostly used, some mint, several hundred diff Price £8

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SJ132 GREAT BRITAIN. British Postal Strike 1971 - Emergency Overprints on Local Carriage Labels printed by Harrison and Sons for Use in Southampton. The complete unmt. Mint set of six stamps 3 x 1/-, 2/-, 6/-, 7/6d Price £1.50

G23A OLYMPIC GAMES Enormous lot, not counting duplicates, there must be over 500 stamps- an outstanding collection Price £11

NY146 ENTOMOLOGY: One of the most unusual thematic subjects we have ever seen, insects on stamps. Hundreds of them Price £7

R.49 SOUTH EAST ASIA - enormous lot, with some complete sheets unmt. mint, mass of singles. Dates back to 1898, to modern mainly different used stamps. About 1600-1700 stamps of which at least 1300 must be different Price £32

SJ53a BARDSEY ISLAND. (Welsh Local Issue) A superb specialised group of Unmounted Mint (complete sets) Stamps from this small Welsh Island rarely get offered for sale Price £7.00

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NY124 THE THREE KINGS King George V, King ED. VII and King George VI. A collection of British Colonials. UNMOUNTED MINT STAMPS. In singles and blocks. Approximately 100+ stamps, low price to clear Price £12.00

EUR 33 EUROPA - A specialised European thematic Collection of Europa stamps, spanning from the 1950's to more modern stamps. Includes Italy, France, Germany, Iceland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Cyprus, Netherlands, G.B. Denmark, Portugal, Spain, Swiss, Finland, Greece, Sweden. Also scarcer local issues for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. Hundreds of all different Europa Stamps, mainly fine used, but mini noted Price £17

FR 229 FRANCE & COLS - A smashing collection of France with French Colonies & Ex Colonies. Mainly Commemorative stamps in singles and blocks. Some unmounted mint, but mostly fine used. A lovely collection with many engraved stamps; several hundreds, mostly different Price £21

BX 486 BOXING - A fine collection of Boxing Stamps Over 80 Stamps in blocks and singles, including champion boxers such as Muhammad Ali. Mainly fine cto used, mint noted, with Great Britain Royal Mail 2012 Olympic Games Gold Medal Boxing Stamps Price £9.75

HP 19A IRAQ WAR COVER - Extremely rare War in Iraq commemorative cover for the fall of Tikrit. Only 150 of this cover, depicting Saddam Hussein, ever existed. We understand many were damaged and destroyed, it is likely on a few covers survived. The cover bears a GB QEII stamp, postmarked with circular London SHC 15 April 2003 Pmk. Together with Iraq stamp overprinted "In British Occupation" This stamp is tied to the cover with a rectangular "Liberation of Iraq 15-04-

03 THE FALL OF TIKRIT". Cachet in purple. A very rare Iraq War Cover in superb condition Price £26

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PM 84 MARGARET THATCHER - The very scarce mourning cover for Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. One of the scarcest political covers. Only 50 ever in existence, mostly now in collectors hands and rarely offered for sale. With "Iron Lady" illustration and official Royal Mail 8th April 2013. Big Ben postmark price Price £13.25

FA16 - FALKLAND ISLANDS Scarce Referendum Cover - A rare and unusual cover for the Falkland Islands Referendum. The illustrated Falklands flag cover is inscribed 11/3/2013 Falkland islanders vote on Self Determination. The cover bears a British Q.E.2. stamp with double penguin postmark dates 11/3/2013 Shetland P.O. It also has a Falkland Is. referendum stamp and Argentine War "Malvinas" ovpt stamp, both tied to the cover with Green Cachet "Falklands Referendum NO to Malvinas. 99.8% vote in favour of remaining with U.K. 11/3/2013" only 50 of rare covers are known to exist Price £18.50

PER 5 - PERSIA & IRAN - A fine collection of several hundred Persia & Iran stamps, includes mint and used dating back to early engraved "Shah" stamps to more modern issues. Several Hundred different stamps, a good collection to build upon Price £14

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Zeppelin mail

Ed Fletcher looks back on the days of the dirigibles and details the many philatelic souvenirs available to the collector today, allowing us to own a tangible reminder of this unique period of aviation history

Only a handful of people throughout the world now possess eye witness memories of looking skyward to confront an awesome silvery airship, three times the length of a Boeing 747, just a

These striking examples (above and right) of aerophilately sold in recent Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions. Selling prices ranged from £85 to £400 (images courtesy of Grosvenor Auctions)



few hundred feet above; its barely audible engines somehow keeping the leviathan hovering steadily overhead. Fortunately for those of us born too late to catch such historical glimpses, much of the cargo in the copious hold consisted of mail – letters, postcards and other packages which carried stamps, cachets and cancellations. They continue to provide a wealth of collectable material for a specialist branch of aerophilately that concentrates to this day on material flown by those long-vanished dirigibles and keeps it safe in our collections.

It all began in the final decade of the 19th century when a German cavalry general decided to retire

from the military and devote himself to solving the problems of how to power and steer a balloon. His name was Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin.

Four essential elements had to come together to achieve a successful flight. The machine would need a reliable steering mechanism to navigate accurately from A to B. Engineering genius would also be necessary to construct an enormous airframe that could hold sufficient hydrogen gas to support a profitable payload. Equally essential were the funds to bring such a huge project to fruition. And fourthly the machine would require a lightweight engine with enough power to drive it through the air. The count brought



the first three elements to the project; the fourth was supplied by two fellow German engineers: Gottlieb Daimler and Carl Benz.

A further decade flew by during which von Zeppelin carried out a successful maiden flight over Lake Constance in 1900. Dirigibles of ever-increasing size followed, each fuelling popular enthusiasm and creating Zeppelin mania across Germany. In 1908 he introduced the public to the giant Zeppelin Z-1, which was almost twice the length of today's Boeing 747. He and his crews flew it successfully to many towns and cities throughout Germany until disaster struck in 1908 when Z-1 was destroyed by fire while on the ground, fortunately without loss of life. Nevertheless the accident weakened the faith of officialdom and the German business community in a viable future for

aircraft filled with explosive gas. The count, rendered almost penniless by the loss, and considering abandonment of his dirigible dreams, was at that time approached by a young publicist, Hugo Eckener, who proposed raising funds for a replacement craft by issuing pre-launch publicity material. Count von Zeppelin gave him a job and Eckener was soon organizing sales of a double postcard with a pop-out centrepiece, Zeppelin photographs and an appeal for donations toward the building of Z-2. Officialdom and business backers climbed aboard once more after witnessing the huge public response to the publicity material. Z-2 was built and made its first flight in July 1909 from Lake Constance to Cologne.

Full advantage was taken by Hugo Eckener of the publicity opportunities offered by the

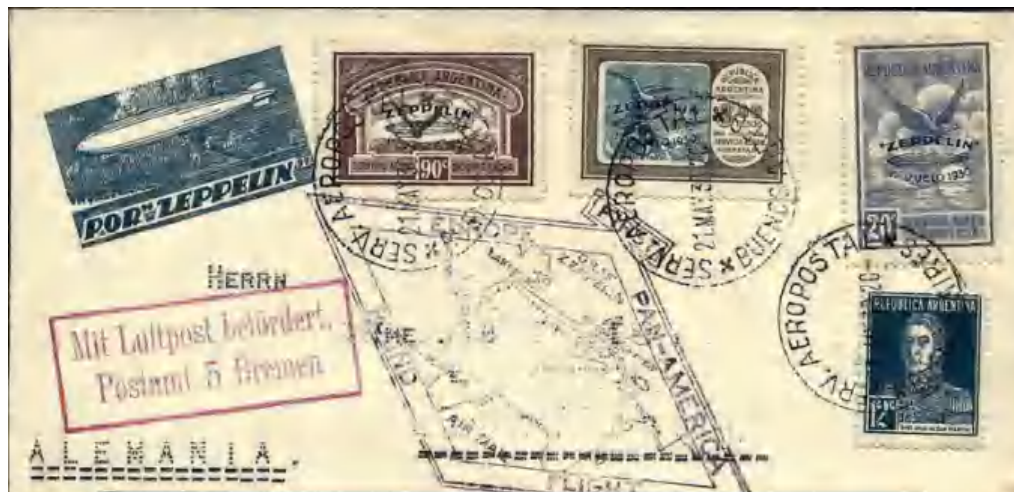
These Zeppelin related items include stamps, covers and postcards sold during the past year on ebay at prices from £10 upwards. They confirm that it remains possible to take up this branch of aerophilately on a very limited budget

phoenix-like Zeppelin Z-2 on that occasion. Cards bearing a brightly coloured cachet and addressed to the re-named company, Luftschiffbau-Zeppelin, in Friedrichshafen were thrown from the dirigible over several towns en route to Cologne. A message asked finders to add notes on weather conditions and wind direction where they found their card, then to mail it to the company from the nearest post office. Eckener squeezed extra publicity from the stunt by having different coloured cards thrown from the Zeppelin on its return journey from Cologne.

Throughout the years running up to the First World War the Luftschiffbau-Zeppelin company enjoyed success with several new Zeppelins added to their fleet carrying passengers in the skies



above Germany; and also supplying military types to the German army. Every commercial flight now carried items of interest to aerophilately then and in the future. A standard postcard used on numbers of routes had the wording: Gruss von Bord des Zeppelinluftschiffe (Greetings from aboard Zeppelin airship) with space to add the craft's name or number together with flight details. Souvenir postcards depicting the particular airship were also sold to passengers who were invited to address them, add stamps, then throw them overboard for onward posting by finders. To increase the likelihood of the cards falling where they would be found, some had a small lead weight attached to one corner to help the



Zeppelin images were used by poster stamp publishers to promote a wide range of goods and services at the height of worldwide Zeppelin mania



card drop vertically when jettisoned.

An aviation fair staged in Hesse proved to be the highlight of the summer of 1912. The Zeppelin Schwaben (LZ-10) with a gondola to carry twenty passengers, a top speed of 47mph, and a range of 900 miles, made many flights during the event. Airmail postmarks were used at several cities and towns on postcards carried aboard the airship; and special stamps (10, 20 and 30 pfennig) were issued. On the final day of the fair the stamps received commemorative overprints. Destroyed while on the ground during a gale later in the same month, LZ-10 had made a total of 218 flights and carried 1,553 passengers during her short period of service. Other dirigibles associated with aerophilatic souvenirs during 1912 included Viktoria Luise (LZ-11) and Hansa (LZ-13) for which commemorative cards imprinted with 50 pfennig or 1 mark stamps were issued. Hansa

enjoyed a glorious service, making the first passenger-carrying flight beyond Germany to visit Denmark and Sweden, with von Zeppelin as commander. She completed a total of 399 flights totalling 27,612 miles. Commandeered by the German military at the outbreak of the Second World War, Hansa was finally decommissioned in 1916.

During 1913 semi-official air stamps were used on circuitous flights around Düsseldorf and Liegnitz; while May of 1914 produced a special airmail stamp for the last air show before war broke out: a flight between Dresden and Leipzig. The 25 pfennig stamp depicted a Zeppelin and was inscribed FLUGPOST (Airmail). Had the war not shattered the world that year we might have had a great adventure and another album of aerophilately to celebrate: the planned Anglo-German dirigible exploration of the island of New Guinea aboard an airship built in



Germany, given an English name, and manned by a German and English crew in equal numbers. Reports of examples of stamps said to have been produced for this expedition and sold in Germany to raise funds may be apocryphal.

The Kaiser's government effectively nationalized Germany's entire airship industry and put Hugo Eckener in charge of airship pilot training. Already far ahead of the Allies in dirigible technology, the Germans delivered crippling damage with high altitude bombing, aerial reconnaissance and long-range attacks in larger and faster Zeppelins. Britain eventually curtailed their superiority in 1916 with the invention of incendiary machine-gun ammunition which chased most Zeppelins from the skies. Nevertheless, the Allies had come to fear German superiority in this type of warfare. The Treaty of Versailles prohibited all German dirigible construction and ordered the handing over of all Zeppelins as contributions to the war reparations bill.

Germany wriggled and procrastinated until first France, then the USA, then Britain lost interest, either because of enthusiasm for heavier-than-air machines or/and because of disasters such as Britain's R-38 and R-101 crashes, and the USA's ZRS-4 and ZRS-5 accidents. Germany remained faithful to its Zeppelins, capturing the imaginations of all humanity in the 1920s and 30s with transatlantic flights, South America flights, round-the-world flights, polar flights, and hundreds more less spectacular journeys. All left in their wakes astonishing numbers of covers, souvenir postcards, cancellations, cachets and Zeppelin inspired postage stamps. The Graf Zeppelin on its own generated nearly 1,000 different stamps, postmarks, cachets and covers during 590 flights adding up to 1,053,391 miles before decommissioning in 1937, the same year in which the Hindenburg burst into flames while landing at Lakehurst, New Jersey, USA, the victim of static electricity and hydrogen. The death of 36 passengers sounded the death knell for dirigibles.





Registration: Heidelberg to Oxford

Philatelist and social historian Dane Garrod examines a banking cover sent from Europe to the UK in 1930 to give the philatelic background, the reasons for the registration and details of what was contained

Much has changed in the world of banking during the last forty years – some of it for the good. However, the need for postal communication is now all but gone, and certainly this item shown portrays a lost world of personal customer contact. There was a time when a written up-to-date schedule of your account was not only held in a ledger actually at the branch where you banked, but you, the valued customer, were given a permanent copy in small book form, not dissimilar in size to a passport. This was updated within a few waiting moments when you brought it to your bank branch, and returned to you to safely keep. Excellent, if you lived near to your branch, but if you lived elsewhere in the land, or even in another country, then a different approach was needed. This is where our 1930 cover from Heidelberg comes in.

A printed pre-addressed envelope was sent by a customer to their bank in Oxford. Residing in Heidelberg, the writer added the correct total postal rate of 55 pfennigs to cover the postage and registration, the postage stamps being from the September 1928 definitive issue featuring the first German President, Friedrich Ebert, and the second and current President, Paul von Hindenburg. Both our stamps show the current President at this time. To ensure that all the world knew exactly where Oxford was – the cover was never intended for European use – the sender added the word 'England' as well as the underlined word 'Registered'. This suggests that he/she was probably English, for it was left to the Heidelberg post office to add the translated word of 'Einschreiben'. The internationally accepted

and understood blue cross lines for registration were added back and front, together with an orange and white registration label at the point of departure – Heidelberg office No.5.

Despatch was on 7 March, 1930, and a faint receiving handstamp on the reverse can be read showing arrival in Oxford two days later, on the 9th. By both rail and air? Most certainly. Arrival would have been at Croydon aerodrome, and then by Great Western Railway to Oxford from Paddington, after sorting in London. So what was this transmission all about? Well, inside the envelope, on the reverse of the front and in small characters, is a note from the National Provincial Bank, reading 'It is requested that PASSBOOKS may be Returned for Revision at least every Three Months, and that Due Notice may be given of any Alteration in the Address to which they are to be sent by the Bank'. So what we have is an envelope which has clearly been folded into three and sent with the account passbook to Germany, allowing the customer to use the envelope to send the book back the next time. Not necessarily a savings account, as current accounts also had passbooks at this time.

The Heidelberg post office were aware of the probable contents from the addressee, and also added the word 'Geschäftspapier' – commercial or business mail. The bank branch still exists at 32 Cornmarket Street in Oxford, but since 1970 has been part of the merger of the National Provincial and Westminster banks. The junior employed in March 1930 to open the mail was no stamp collector, for not only did he/she not tear off the stamp, but nearly destroyed the back of the envelope in their eagerness to extract the passbook.



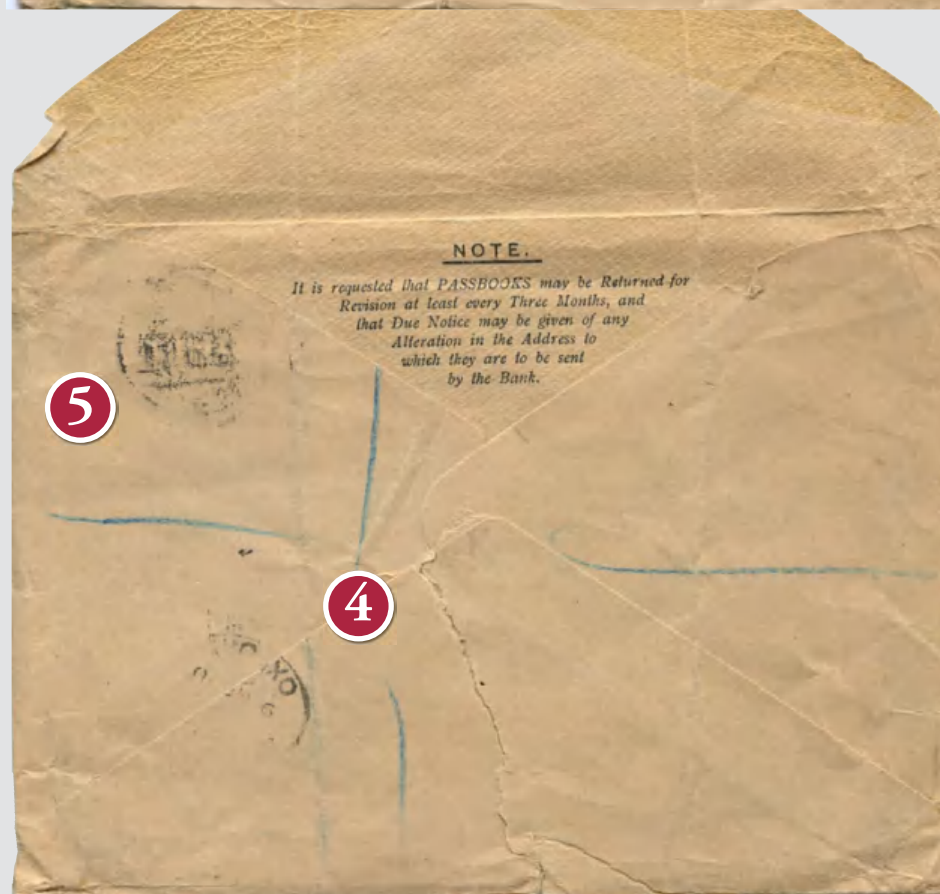
1 The printed pre-addressed envelope was sent by a customer residing in Heidelberg to their bank in Oxford, the writer added the correct total postal rate of 55 pfennigs to cover the postage and registration, the postage stamps being from the September 1928 definitive issue

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Devils and demons

Whether they're viewed as mere pranksters or pure, personified evil, every culture has its own devils and demons. Paula Hammond plucks up the courage to provide a guide to this devilish stamp theme

In ancient Babylon, they came in the form of human-headed, winged bulls. In the Christian Old Testament, demons were monstrous men-beasts with horns and hooves. In Buddhism and Hinduism, various creatures known as demons come equipped with fangs, multiple arms and wings. Devils and demons, it seems, come in all shapes and sizes. Some are good, some are bad, but all are guaranteed to give you nightmares!

It's no wonder, then, that myths, art, literature, theatre and TV are filled with tales of supernatural creatures whose sole aim is to trick, tempt and torment us. Philately has got in on the act too, allowing collectors to build a thematic that's devilishly good fun. The key to success is, however, keeping a narrow focus, as this is a theme that can easily spiral out of control.

Religious stamps would seem to be an obvious starting point but, in the West at least, Old Nick rarely makes an appearance in person. Rather he appears in disguise, as in a 1994 Vatican City se-tenant stamp showing Michelangelo's *The Fall of Man and the Expulsion from the Garden of Eden*. A rather bizarre Israeli stamp from 2000 – complete



with devilish snake – also uses a scene from the Garden to promote dental hygiene!

In the East, stamp designers have fewer qualms about showing demons and devils. Tai, Laotian, Indian and Japanese stamps often feature legendary demons and these make a wonderfully colourful collection.

A 2005 set from Thailand, showing the Battle between Rama and the demon Ravana, is a particularly fine example, while the 1973 Laotian 'Space in Retrospect' stamp shows how Eastern demons can crop up in the unlikeliest of places. Here, alongside Sputnik, is the demon-dragon Rahu who is said to swallow the Moon and Sun, causing eclipses.

Arts and crafts are also a great source of devilish stamps. Check out the 1968 Austrian stamp which features Paul Troger's magnificent *Vanquished Demons* fresco from Altenberg Abbey, the wonderful 1975 series celebrating Russian Palekh lacquer art, which includes A. Kochupalov's fabulous *Demon*, and the 1981 Czechoslovakian issue which shows Punch and Devil.

Literature and music shouldn't be ignored either, as these areas provide a wide source of material for a devils thematic. Faust is especially popular, as seen in the 'Dr Johannes Faust' 1979 German issue set and the excellent nine-stamp 'Damnation of Faust' issue from Monaco (1969) which marks the centenary of Berlioz's death.

Finally, let's not forget devilish legends. Many fine tales have been celebrated in stamp form but who wouldn't want to add Canada's lurid 1991 'Witched Canoe' stamp to their collection. It's wicked!



D is for Devils and Demons

Five notable releases

- 1968 Austria, Paul Troger 'Vanquished Demons'
- 1969 Monaco, 'Damnation of Faust' anniversary
- 1991 Canada, Witched Canoe folklore series
- 2000 Israel, Garden of Eden dental hygiene
- 2005 Thailand, Battle between Rama and Ravana

Why Collect?

- Flexible theme.
- Encompasses art, crafts, literature, folklore, music, myths, religion and place names.
- Colourful and exotic.
- Opportunity to focus on postal cancellations as well as stamps.

Expand the theme

Add stamps that celebrate demon and devil-inspired place names, such as the USA 1956 Devil's Tower fiftieth anniversary stamp or Andorra's 1997 Devil's Bridge issue. Cancellations from Hell (there's one in the Cayman Islands, Norway, Slovenia, and Michigan, USA) Devil's Island (now part of the newly founded Guiana Space Centre) Satan's Kingdom (Vermont, USA) or Mamungkukumpuranguntjunya Hill (meaning 'where the devil urinates') would make a great addition to the theme.

Collecting links

Victor Manta's article 'Devilish Post' (<http://stamp.cm/devil-stamps>) is a highly readable introduction to the topic.





The importance of trees

Since it was founded by a precocious nine-year-old in 2007, the youth initiative Plant-for-the-Planet has managed to plant millions of trees while reminding adults, including leaders of the world's most powerful countries, of the importance of reforestation. Richard Tarrant explores how different aspects of our dependency on trees can form a thematic stamp collection

Since pictorial stamps first began to be produced, there have been many that have depicted trees. The reason for this is simply that trees are of such importance to the human race in so many different ways. Also of consideration is that trees are a gift to stamp designers, it being difficult to conceive of an unattractive tree stamp.

It is estimated that there are around 100,00 different species of trees worldwide, although there is no universally accepted definition of what constitutes a tree. At its most basic a tree is a plant with an elongated stem or trunk, with leaves or branches some distance above the ground. Such a definition overlaps with that of a shrub, so a distinction is often made between trees and shrubs by their height.

We depend on trees for our very survival. They complement us perfectly by producing oxygen that we cannot

live without and absorbing carbon dioxide that we exhale. Trees help us by moderating temperature and rainfall. They clean and enrich soil and prevent soil erosion, as their roots bind the soil and their leaves break the force of wind and rain on soil. Such is our dependence on trees that their conservation is crucial, which has been the message on a number of stamps.

Trees have always provided a wealth of food for humans. There are many hundreds of fruits derived from trees and many have been depicted on stamps. Some of those featured are very familiar to us, while others are less so. A fruit that is of huge economic importance but, unlike many fruits, is not eaten in its raw form derives from the tree species *Theobroma cacao*. We know the seeds of the fruit as cocoa beans, from which cocoa solids and cocoa butter are extracted and are the basis of chocolate.



Top, from left: Swiss stamp in support of forest conservation; German stamp urging that we 'Save the Tropical Rainforest'; New Zealand stamp illustrating citrus fruits; Malawi stamp depicting wild loquats, fruit that is largely unfamiliar in the UK; Malaysia stamp depicting mangosteen, fruit largely unfamiliar in the UK; above: Austria miniature sheet for the International Year of the Forest in 1985, proclaiming 'Protect the Forest!'



From left: Malaysia stamp illustrating *Theobroma cacao* and the fruits from which cocoa beans are derived; Romanian stamp illustrating walnuts. Romania has the most productive walnut farms in the world; Somalia stamp illustrating a coconut palm (*Cocos nucifera*)

Many countries cultivate cacao trees, Ivory Coast and Ghana being the most prolific. Cacao trees and their fruit have been featured on many stamps.

Nuts are an important source of nutrients and a key part of some countries' economies, particularly developing countries. Coconuts lead the way in being the largest commercially produced nut worldwide, valued as food and for making coconut oil, coir and coconut cake for livestock. Coconuts are the product of the family



Arecaceae, also known as the palm family. Products derived from palm trees of various types include dates, palm oil, carnauba oil and rattan cane. Given the economic significance of palm trees to many countries, it is unsurprising that they have featured on numerous stamps over the years.

Spices derived from trees, such as cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves are valued for the flavouring and colouring they bring to food, and have in the past been used for medicinal purposes. Spice production is important to several countries' economies, most particularly India, which produces 70 per cent of the world's spices. In 2009 India issued a set of stamps to promote their spice industry.

There is a long history of wood being used for many different purposes, it being such a versatile substance. One of the earliest uses was as fuel and wood remains the most common source of

From top: Cayman Islands stamp illustrating a coconut grove; Western Samoa stamp depicting the preparation of copra, which is the dried kernel of the coconut used to extract coconut oil. The stamp also illustrates the use of wood for making containers and in construction

India stamps featuring spices that are important to the country's economy. Of those illustrated, cinnamon and clove are derived from trees



Branching out... wildlife in trees

Trees are hugely important to wildlife. They provide nesting for birds, shelter from the elements and, for smaller mammals, cover from predators. Fruit, nuts and seeds are important food sources for wildlife, while insects and pollinators take advantage of nectar-rich flowers. These important aspects are well documented on stamps.

A set of ten stamps that perhaps best signifies the relationship between trees and wildlife was issued by San Marino in 1979 with an environmental protection theme. Each stamp featured a species of tree and a wildlife species relating to the tree in question. It is a beautiful and striking set but somewhat puzzling in that each type of wildlife appeared to be the same size, for example an African elephant and a koala.

heat worldwide. An example is the wood from the *Acacia auriculiformis*, which is used as fuel in countries such as Papua New Guinea.

Another early use of wood was for constructing buildings, being durable and with good insulation properties. It is still used for buildings and remains the favoured material for furniture. Wood was also used for shipbuilding, with nearly all ships and boats being built from wood until the nineteenth century. Today, only small boats tend to be made of wood.

A number of trees contribute to traditional and modern medicine, by extraction from the wood, bark, roots, leaves, flowers, fruits or seeds. Although in developed countries synthesized medicines have largely replaced medicines derived from trees and other plants, they are still used by

populations where access to modern pharmaceuticals is limited. Examples include quinine, which is derived from the bark of *Cinchona* trees, and salicylic acid, which can be obtained from the white willow (*Salix alba*) tree.

The sap or gum from trees has a number of uses, rubber being a prime example. Different tree species can be used to produce rubber but the major commercial source is the Pará rubber tree (*Hevea brasiliensis*). Most rubber is now produced synthetically as a derivative of petroleum but over forty percent is still naturally produced. Rubber is used for many purposes but vehicle tyres account for the bulk of its use worldwide. Several stamps have depicted rubber 'tapping', the harvesting in the form of latex. This involves the sticky substance being drawn off by making incisions into



TEN STAMPS ON...

Bees

Inspired by Royal Mail's new stamps (see page 32) Adrian Keppel has been a busy bee finding those little buzzers on stamps from all over the world



French stamp depicting Tronçais Forest, issued in the cause of nature conservation and illustrating the beauty of trees

a tree's bark and collecting the fluid in vessels. The latex goes on to be refined into rubber ready for commercial processing.

Other products made from tree gum or sap includes chicle, a natural gum once used in making chewing gum but replaced by a cheaper, synthetic substance. They also include gum arabic, which is a natural gum made of the hardened sap of species of the acacia tree and used primarily in the food industry as a stabiliser. Maple syrup, which is usually made from the sap of sugar maple, red maple, or black maple trees, is used as a sweetener or to flavour such as pancakes and porridge.

Although it can be produced from cloth or grasses, nearly all paper is made with wood derived from a whole range of trees, both hardwood and softwood. Paper manufacturing mainly uses off-cuts and trimmings from trees used for furniture and timber production, the unwanted wood being transformed into wood chips that are then pulped and processed. There are also a number of fibres that are made from trees, whether from leaves (sisal) or fruit (coir).

As well as being of huge value to us, it has also been long accepted that trees serve to enrich our environment visually. They are a beautiful part of our landscape, whether in gardens, streets, parks, woods or forests. They provide a constant source of interest, particularly when subject to seasonal change. Trees can be an interesting theme for a collection that can be tailored in various ways, such as tree varieties, conservation, food production, uses of wood, or even just the sheer beauty of trees.

1 Mention bees and we will automatically think of our favourite bumble bee depicted on a GB stamp from 1985: the *Bombus terrestris*, or buff-tailed bumble bee. However, unlike his relatives, the bumble bee is not much of a honey producer, making usually only enough to last him or herself a couple of days.

2 Honey bees, on the other hand, such as this Italian bee, a subspecies of the European honey bee, depicted on a 2010 Romanian stamp, make plenty of honey and it is from these that we enjoy the fruits.

3 After having gathered nectar from the various flowers, the honey bees return to their hives, as shown on this 2013 New Zealand stamp.

4 For mankind's honey production, we have learned to make beehives for the bees. Here they can be found on this Fiji stamp, part of a whole set stamps illustrating honey production, issued in 2006.

5 No neat and tidy, man-made hive for these Botswana bees though, their hive is self-made and up in the trees, as can be seen on this stamp from 2010.

6 With the gathered nectar, the honey bees start producing their honey, as witnessed on this 2012 stamp from the Yemen.

7 The beekeeper, seen here on a 2013 stamp from Uruguay, checks the honeycombs to see how much honey has already been stored in the cells.

8 The beekeeper eventually harvests the honey and that's how we find the end product on our breakfast table. Here, on this Tunisian stamp from 2012, the whole process is repeated in shortened form.

9 Throughout history, the bee has been so important that it is often used as a royal symbol. Napoleon's coat of arms even included bees, as can be seen on this 2004 stamp from Monaco.

10 From history to the future and here we have space bees, or should that be space bees, on a 2002 Liechtenstein stamps. Turns out that bees have actually been taken along on various trips into space!



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Society news



REDDITCH PHILATELIC SOCIETY 45th ANNIVERSARY 1971-2016

To celebrate the 45th anniversary of **Redditch Philatelic Society** in 2016, the club is launching a new postcard showing early postmarks. This is the third postcard published by the Society, the previous two being issued in 1996 (Early Redditch Postmarks) and 2006 (Village Postmarks of Redditch District). This subject 'Early Postmarks of Alcester & District' was chosen to coincide with the Society's forthcoming fair and exhibition to be held in Alcester, Warwickshire. All three postcards will be priced at 50p each and will be available at a stamp fair being held by the Society on 17 October at St Benedict's High

School, Kinwarton Road, Alcester B49 6PX. For details tel: 01789 765385; website: www.redditch-philatelic.org.uk

Eastbourne and South Downs Philatelic Society is holding a stamp fair on Saturday 3 October in the hall at Victoria Baptist Church, Eldon Road, Eastbourne, BN21 1UE. The fair will run from 10am to 4pm and will have nine dealers present. There is free on-site parking and refreshments will be available. For details tel: 01323 737183.

The Royal Philatelic Society London has presented its annual medals to acknowledge notable achievements. The three recipients of The Royal Philatelic Society London Medal for outstanding service to the Society are Jonathan Cartwright, Bill Hedley and Danny Wong. The Tilleard Medal for the best afternoon display given to the Society is awarded to Edward Klempka for 'Great Britain Postal History 1840-1854'. The Lee Medal for the best presentation given to the Society goes to Lars

Engelbrecht for 'Denmark Bicoloured Postal Stationery 1871-1905'.

The Tapling Medal for best paper published in *The London Philatelist* goes to Anthony Bard for 'North Korea' published in the June 2014 edition. The Crawford Medal for the most valuable and original contribution to the study and knowledge of philately published in book form is awarded to Kenneth Scudder for *Queensland Postage Stamps 1879-1912*. In addition, Chris Harman has been presented with a Certificate in recognition of thirty years' service to the Society as Chairman of its Expert Committee.

At the recent **Chelmsford & District Philatelic Society** meeting members were asked to bring up to sixteen sheets of stamps or postal history beginning with the letter 'G'. Highlights included Norman Sharpe's 'GV and GVI stamps and postage dues', Adrian Goodall's 'Gold Medal Olympics stamps', and Richard Barnett's 'Postmarks of Gwelo in Southern Rhodesia'. For society details tel: 01245 420196; e-mail: john@jr226.plus.com

Visiting speaker Paul Skinner displayed material on the German occupation of Jersey during the Second World War at the recent **Kingston &**

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Deal

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Platters Cafe, Victoria Street
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6 September 2015

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12 September 2015

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Crawley

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Nunsfield House Community Hall,
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Folkestone

Trinity Church Hall, Sandgate Road; 07702 270948

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District Philatelic Society meeting. The display was brought to life by ephemera of the topic which enhanced the philatelic study and provided an interesting social history of the island between 1936 and 1946. For society details tel: 01932 220677; e-mail: brian.sole@btinternet.com

Dr Patrick Reid FRPSL visited the **West London Philatelic Society** recently with his display 'Tasmania'. A spokesperson said: 'Patrick described the verdant island and explained that many village, town and county names would seem familiar due to the British influence. This display differed that which some of had seen previously in that fine examples of the postal history of Launceston, the second largest city on the island, were included.' For society details tel: 020 8940 9833; e-mail: olivers.of_ham@virgin.net

The South African Collectors' Society recently held its AGM weekend at Leamington Spa. The event featured five displays and the annual Abell competition which was won by Lyn Lester. The Wicks Medal for the best article in the *Springbok* was won by Otto Peetoom. For society details tel: 020 8940 9833; e-mail: olivers.of_ham@virgin.net; website: www.southafricacollector.com

SPOTLIGHT ON

The Cricket Philatelic Society

Celebrating one of the world's most popular sports, the Cricket Philatelic Society brings together collectors from around the world. The issue of the first cricket stamp in 1962 by Cape Verde was the inspiration for the Society's formation and over the years, this has expanded to become a 'worldwide fellowship' of collectors.

Members stay in touch via a quarterly newsletter *Wickets* which contains details of recent cricket-related stamp issues and publications, as well as articles on cricket stamps. The group also holds occasional postal auctions at which members can buy and sell stamps and first day covers.

An annual subscription is £7 UK/ £9 Europe/ £13 overseas. For more information or to join, contact: A Melville-Brown, President, 11 Weppons, Ravens Road, Shoreham by Sea, West Sussex BN43 5AW; e-mail: mel.cricket.100@googlemail.com; website: www.cricketstamp.net



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In-depth listings

Your comprehensive guide to the latest new stamps from around the world

GREAT BRITAIN

(listed in every issue)

001 175th anniversary of the Penny Black, one self-adhesive stamp in a booklet and two values in a miniature sheet of four
 Issue date: May 6, 2015; Design: Sedley Placde; Printer: ISP (International Security Printers), Wolverhampton, gravure (booklet) or Cartor, offset (miniature sheet); Perforations: die-cut 14.6 x 14.4 (booklet stamp) or 14.75 x 14 (minisheet), both with elliptical cut-outs on two sides of stamps
 Booklet (3.78): self-adhesive
 1st (63p) x six copies – One Penny Black of 1840 with corner letters S & C, with Machin profile of Queen and 1ST both in white
 Stamps are affixed in two rows of three to inside right cover (surround is removed)
 Miniature sheet: gummed, contains 1st (63p) x two copies, One Penny Black of 1840 with corner letters S-C
 1st (63p) x two copies, Two Pence Blue of 1840, with corner letters Q-B
 Border depicts printing press at Perkins, Baker and Petch (after photograph)
Notes: this sheet was available with an overprint at the Europhilex 2015 Stamp Exhibition in London, May 13 to 15, at a premium price

002 Centenary of the Great War, second issue, six values in sheets and a Prestige Booklet with four panes
 Issue date: May 14, 2015; Design: Hat-trick Design; Printer: ISP Cartor, offset; Perforations 14.25 x 14.25 or perforations 14.75 x 14 with elliptical cut-outs on vertical sides (Machins). All stamps are gummed.
 1st (63p) – *Poppies*, semi-abstract painting by Howard Hodgkin
 1st (63p) – Extract from poem 'All the Hills and Vales Along' by Charles Hamilton Sorley
 1st (63p) – Rifleman Kulbir Thapa, VC, (photographic portrait of the Gurkha soldier)
 £1.52 – *The Kensingtons at Laventie*, painting by Eric Kennington
 £1.52 – A British Soldier visits his Comrade's grave on the cliffs near Cape Helles, Gallipoli (a posed photograph by Ernest Brooks)
 £1.52 – Football kicked by members of London Irish Rifles into no-man's land on the Western Front (accidentally, during a scratch

football game, where it became entangled in barbed wire)

Prestige Booklet (£13.96): contains six panes

Pane of 1st (63p) x 4 copies, Observer of the Royal Field Artillery, 1917

Pane border depicts trench on Western Front

Pane of 1st (63p) *Poppies*, semi-abstract painting by Howard Hodgkin; 1st (63p) – extract from poem 'All the Hills and Vales Along' by Charles Hamilton Sorley; 1st (63p) – Rifleman Kulbir Thapa (photographic portrait), in se-tenant strip
 Pane border depicts soldier's kit (annotated archive photograph)

Pane of £1.52 – *The Kensingtons at Laventie*, painting by Eric Kennington; pane of £1.52 – A British Soldier visits his Comrade's grave on the cliffs near Cape Helles, Gallipoli, photograph by Ernest Brooks; pane of £1.52 – football kicked by members of London Irish Rifles

Pane of eight stamps and a central label (3 x 2), contains 5p red-brown Machin x 2 copies; £1.33 Machin x 2 copies; 1p crimson Machin x 2 copies; 1st poppies on barbed wire x 2 copies; £1.33 dull orange Machin x 2 copies. Label bears quotation from poem by Lt Col John McCrae
 Cover: numerals '15' infilled with Great War photographs
Notes. The Observer of the Royal Field Artillery design previously appeared in the British Army Uniforms series of 2007 (in sheets, printed Enschedé). The poppies on barbed wire design is as appeared in the January 2010 'Smiler' miniature sheet of ten
All the three Machins have security overlay with codes M15L / MPIL. The £1.33 is a completely new stamp (new value in litho printed gummed definitives with security overlay)

ALDERNEY

(previously listed in July 2015 issue)

003 Alderney Forts, six values
 Issue date: July 22, 2015; Design: Mark Totty from photographs by Martin Batt; Printer: BDT, offset; Perforations: 14.75 x 14
 42p – Fort Tourgis
 56p – Fort Clonque
 57p – Fort Grosnez

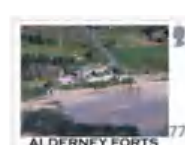
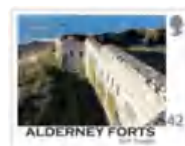
62p – Fort Houmet Herbé
 68p – Fort Château à l'Étoc
 77p – The Nunnery Roman Fort (4th century AD) at Longis Bay (aerial photograph which includes modern buildings)

ANTIGUA and BARBUDA

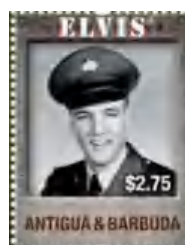
(previously listed in Sept 2013 issue)

004 Elvis Presley, eleven values in three sheetlets and two values in a miniature sheet
 Issue date: September 9, 2011;
 Design: from photographs;
 Printer: not reported, offset; Perforations: 12.75 x 12.75 with elliptical cut-outs
 (A) sheetlet of three \$2.75 Elvis in front of house; \$2.75 Elvis on steps of railway carriage; \$2.75 Elvis on motorcycle
 (B) sheetlet of four \$2.75 Elvis in US Army uniform; \$2.75 Elvis in US Army uniform, leaning on rail of bridge; \$2.75 Elvis in army fatigues and cap; \$2.75 Elvis reading a letter
 (C) sheetlet of two se-tenant pairs \$2.75 Elvis in red shirt, singing; \$2.75 Elvis in blue shirt, singing; \$2.75 Elvis in silver studded outfit; \$2.75 Elvis in performance
 (D) miniature sheet – contains
 \$3 – Elvis at open-air concert (colour)
 \$3 – Elvis in sweater with striped shoulder bands (monochrome)

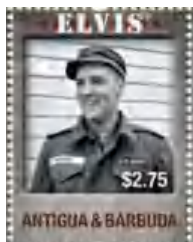
005 Fish of the Tropics, eight values in two sheetlets, and a pair of miniature sheets
 Issue date: September 30, 2011; Printer: not reported, offset; Perforations 12 x 12
 Sheetlet, contains
 \$3.50 – Queen Angelfish, *Holocanthus ciliaris*; \$3.50 – Ocean Surgeonfish, *Acanthurus bahianus*; \$3.50 – Rock Beauty, *Holocanthus tricolor*; \$3.50 – Grey Angelfish, *Pomacanthus arcuatus*
 Sheetlet, contains
 \$3.50 – Four-eye Angelfish, *Chaetodon capistratus*; \$3.50 – French Grunt, *Hæmulon flavolineatum*; \$3.50 – French Angelfish, *Pomacanthus paru*; \$3.50 – Spotfin Butterflyfish, *Chaetodon ocellatus*
 Miniature sheet \$9 – Great Barracuda, *Sphyræna barracuda*
 Miniature sheet – \$9 – Banded Butterflyfish, *Chaetodon striatus*



003



004



006 Hu Jintao, President of the Peoples Republic of China, three values and a miniature sheet
Issue date: October 24, 2011; Printer: not reported, offset; Perforations 12 x 12
Sheetlet, contains \$3 x 3 copies: President Hu Jintao (born 1942) before map of China
Miniature sheet \$6 – Hu Jintao and Chinese flag
Notes: issue also notes China 2011 International Stamp Exhibition



007 Christmas 2011. Italian Art, four values
Issue date: November 11, 2011; Printer: not reported, offset; Perforations: 12 x 12
30c – *Madonna and Child with angels* by Giotto
75c – *The Annunciation with two Saints* by Simone Martini
\$1.50 – *Paradise* by Giusto de' Menabuoi (from dome of Batistia of Padua Cathedral)
\$3 – *Madonna* by Vitale of Bologna

008 Chinese New Year, twelve values in a sheetlet
Issue date: November 11, 2011; Designs: terracotta models of the twelve New Year creatures; Printer: not reported, offset and metallic foil stamped; Perforations: 13 x 13
Sheetlet (3 x 4 se-tenant) contains 65c rat; 65c ox; 65c tiger; 65c rabbit; 65c dragon; 65c snake; 65c horse; 65c ram; 65c monkey; 65c rooster; 65c dog; 65c boar

009 150th anniversary of the outbreak of the American Civil War (1861-2011), four values and a miniature sheet
Issue date: December 19, 2011; Printer: not reported, offset; Perforations: 12 x 12
Sheetlet: \$2.75 photographic portrait of Abraham Lincoln, 1809-1865 (US President); \$2.75 wall painting (political poster) with stars and stripes and inscription Lincoln and Hamlin; \$2.75 close-up photograph of Lincoln (with beard) seated at desk
Miniature sheet \$6 –

Lincoln wearing black bow tie
Border depicts flags of the Union and of the Confederacy

010 Centenary of the loss of the RMS Titanic, April 1912, four values
Issue date: January 25, 2012; Designs: portrait drawings of passengers on the maiden voyage of the Titanic; Printer: not reported, offset; Perforations: 12 x 12
\$3.50 – Joseph Bruce Ismay, 1862-1937, director of the White Star Line (operators of *Titanic*)
\$3.50 – William Stead, 1849-1912, Anglo-American investigative journalist

\$3.50 – Benjamin Guggenheim, 1865-1912, American businessman
\$3.50 – Thomas Andrews, 1873-1912, Irish ship architect and shipbuilder
Miniature sheet \$9 – RMS *Titanic* at sea (depicted on publicity poster)

011 Diamond Jubilee of the Reign of Queen Elizabeth II, five values in a pair of miniature sheets
Issue date: March 26, 2012; Designs: photographs of Princess Elizabeth (b.1926); Printer: not reported, offset; Perforations: 12 x 12
Miniature sheet – \$1.50 Elizabeth seated at piano; \$1.50 Elizabeth in profile (face); \$1.50 Elizabeth amid tall grass in garden; \$1.50 Elizabeth as young girl, in garden amid tulips
Miniature sheet – \$9 Princess Elizabeth in a lilac dress

012 First anniversary of the Wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge (April 28, 2011), one design in a sheetlet of four, and a pair of miniature sheets
Issue date: May 3, 2012; Designs: from photographs; Printer: not reported, offset; Perforations: 13 x 13 with elliptical cut-outs
Sheetlet – contains \$3.50 x four copies, red rose, Kate in red dress, William in jacket and bow tie
Miniature sheet \$4.50 – red rose and Prince William in suit (wearing British Legion poppy)
Miniature sheet \$4.50 – red rose and Kate in black jacket
Notes: each of the \$3.50 stamps has a slightly different frame and background colour

013 London 2012 Olympic Games, four values in a miniature sheet
Issue date: June 18, 2012; Printer: not reported, offset; Perforations: 12 x 12
Miniature sheet, contains \$2.20 rhythmic gymnastics; \$2.20 women's hurdles; \$2.20 men's taekwondo; \$2.20 athletics (runners)

014 Diana, Princess of Wales, 1961-1997, commemoration, four values in a sheetlet plus a miniature sheet
Issue date: July 30, 2012; Designs: photographs; Printer: not reported, offset; Perforations: 12 x 12
Sheetlet, contains \$3.50 portrait face; \$3.50 in white jacket; \$3.50 Diana in scarlet dress; \$3.50 in white dress and jewelled necklace
Miniature sheet – \$9 Diana (in full length white dress) meeting schoolchildren

015 Bicentenary of the birth of Charles Dickens, 1812-1870, six values in a sheetlet, and a miniature sheet
Issue date: July 30, 2012; Printer: not reported, offset; Perforations: 13.75 x 13.75
\$2.75 – Illustration from *Great Expectations*
\$2.75 – Illustration from *Oliver Twist*
\$2.75 – Sketch portrait of Dickens c1842
\$2.75 – Dickens in middle age, at writing desk (photograph)
\$2.75 – Illustration from *David Copperfield*
\$2.75 – Illustration from *A Christmas Carol*
Miniature sheet \$9 – Illustration from *A Tale of Two Cities*

016 Marine Life. Seahorses, five values in a sheetlet
Issue date: September 24, 2012; Printer: not reported, offset; Perforations: 13.75 x 13.75
Sheetlet, contains \$3 x five different depictions of seahorses (*Hippocampus* sp.)

017 Bicentenary of the War of 1812, six values in a sheetlet and a miniature sheet
Issue date: November 12, 2012; Designs: from 19th century paintings; Printer: not reported, offset; Perforations: 12 x 12.
\$2.75 – *HMS Shannon encounters American frigate Chesapeake in Halifax harbour*, by Louis Haghe, 1706-1885
\$2.75 – *Engagement between USS Constitution and HMS Guerriere*, by Michele F Cornè, 1752-1845
\$2.75 – *Portrait of President James Madison* (1816), by John Vanderlyn, 1775-1852
\$2.75 – *Portrait of President Andrew Jackson* (1875) by Ralph Earl (Jackson was a Major-General during the War of 1812)
\$2.75 – *The US Capitol building after fire set by British troops* (August 1814), watercolour by George Munger, 1771-1825
\$2.75 – *The Battle of Lake Erie* (Sept 1813) by William Henry Powell, 1823-1879, depicting US Commodore Perry in rowing boat

Miniature sheet - \$9 *The Bombardment of Fort McHenry, near Baltimore 1814*, by John Bower
Notes: war declared by United States against Great Britain, which lasted from mid 1812 until early 1815

018 Christmas 2012, six values
Issue date: November 19, 2012; Designs: paintings.; Printer: not reported, offset; Perforations: 12.5 x 12.5.
30c – *Adoration of the Child* (Mary and Jesus) by Antonio de Correggio, 1489-1534
75c – *Madonna and Child with two Angels* by Filippo Lippi, c1406-1469

004



006



007



034



035

- \$1.50 – *Virgin and Child* by P P Rubens, 1577-1640
 \$2 – *Madonna and Child* by Parmigianino, 1503-1540
 \$3 – *The Grand Duke's Madonna* by Raffaello Sanzio, 1483-1520
 \$3.25 – *Adoration of the Magi* by Sandro Botticelli, 1445-1510

- 019 Marine Life**, twelve values in a sheetlet
 Issue date: December 3, 2012; Printer: not reported, offset; Perforations: 13 x 13 with ellipticals
 \$1.25 – Copperband Butterflyfish, *Chelmon restratus*
 \$1.25 – Threadfin Butterflyfish, *Chaetodon auriga*
 \$1.25 – Moon Jellyfish, *Aurelia aurita*
 \$1.25 – Jellyfish
 \$1.25 – Blue-cheeked Butterflyfish, *Chaetodon semilarvatus*
 \$1.25 – Green Sea Turtle, *Chelonia mydas*
 \$1.25 – Turtle, and Ocellaris Clownfish, *Amphiprion ocellaris*
 \$1.25 – Forbes Sea Star, *Asterias forbes*
 \$1.25 – Yellow Tube Sponge (left side of group)
 \$1.25 – Yellow Tube Sponges (right side of group)
 \$1.25 – Ocellaris Clownfish, *Amphiprion ocellaris*
 \$1.25 – Sea Anemone

- 020 Marine Life. Stingrays and Skates**, four values and a miniature sheet
 Issue date: December 3, 2012; Printer: not reported, offset; Perforations: 13.5 x 13.5, or 12.25 x 12.25 (miniature sheet)
 Sheetlet, contains \$3 *Dipturus batis*; \$3 – *Dipturus oxyrinchus* (from beneath); \$3 – *Dipturus oxyrinchus* (from above);
 \$3 – *Raja microocellata*
 Miniature sheet \$9 – *Leucoraja naevus*

- 021 Turtles and Tortoise**, four values and a miniature sheet
 Issue date: December 3, 2012; Printer: not reported, offset; Perforations: 13.5 x 13.5, or 12.25 x 12.25 (miniature sheet)
 Sheetlet, contains \$3.50 – Green sea turtle, *Chelonia mydas*; \$3.50 – Hispaniolan slider, *Trachemys decorata*; \$3.50 – Leatherback sea turtle, *Dermochelys coriacea*; \$3.50 – Red-footed tortoise, *Chelonoidis carbonaria*
 Miniature sheet \$9 – Mata Mata (freshwater turtle from Orinoco and Amazon river basins)

- 022 Paintings by Raphael**, four values and a miniature sheet
 Issue date: February 20, 2013; Printer: not reported, offset; Perforations: 12.25 x 12.25

- Sheetlet, contains \$3.25 – *Andrea Navagero* (portrait of the Venetian writer, painted c1516); \$3.25 – *La Muta* (c1507); \$3.25 – Self-portrait (1506); \$3.25 – *La Fornarina* (Portrait of a Young Woman) (c1518-1520)
 Miniature sheet \$9 – *Portrait of A Cardinal* (c1518)

- 023 Hit Records by Elvis Presley**, five values each in a miniature sheet
 Issue date: February 20, 2013; Designs: photographs of Elvis Presley in various outfits or performing. Sheet borders depict gold record (attained in USA); Printer: not reported, offset; Perforations: 12.25 x 12.25
 Miniature sheet: \$9 – I Don't Care if the Sun Don't Shine (1956). Elvis on a set which has a cut-out 'Elvis in Person' of him singing with guitar
 Miniature sheet: \$9 – Fame and Fortune (1960): Elvis trying on dark evening dress
 Miniature sheet: \$9 – Puppet On A String (1965): Elvis singing in to microphone
 Miniature sheet: \$9 – My Boy (1974): Elvis wearing patterned shirt
 Miniature sheet: \$9 – Hurt (1975): Elvis shaking hands with President Nixon

CAYMAN ISLANDS

(previously listed in March 2015 issue)

- 024 Christmas 2014. Churches of the Cayman Islands**, three gummed and three self-adhesive values
 Issue date: November 14, 2014; Design: Andrew Robinson, from photographs; Printing: BDT, offset; Perforations 13.5 x 13.5 (gummed) or die-cut 14 x 15 (booklet stamps)
 (A) gummed stamps from sheets, stamp format 38mm x 32mm
 25c – Little Cayman Baptist Church
 25c – Stake Bay Baptist Church
 25c – South Sound United Church

- (B) self-adhesive stamps from booklet, stamp format 24mm x 30mm
 Self-adhesive booklet (CY\$3), contains 25c x 4 copies – Little Cayman Baptist Church, affixed to inside left cover
 25c x 4 copies – Stake Bay Baptist Church affixed to inside centre cover
 25c x 4 copies – South Sound United Church, affixed to inside right cover
 Booklet cover depicts South Sound United Church
 All designs incorporate a hibiscus flower

FRANCE

(previously listed in August 2015 issue)

- 025 20th anniversary of Eurotunnel (Channel Tunnel)**, one value
 Issue date: May 6, 2014; Design: from illustration by Philippe Turpin; Engraving: Pierre Albuissou; Printer: Phil@Poste, recess; Perforations: 13.3 x 13.1
 €0.66 – Train emerging from tunnel at Coquelles, Pas de Calais (white cliffs of Dover in background)

Notes: official title of the issue is 20 ans du lien fixé sous la Manche

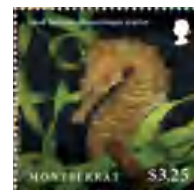
- 026 Tourism. Boulogne-sur-Mer**, one value
 Issue date: May 8, 2014; Design: Sophie Beaujard; Engraving: Line Filhon; Printer: Phil@Poste, recess; Perforations: 12.8 x 12.85
 €0.61 – Boulogne buildings and structures (port, belfry and Cathedral, city gate)

- 027 150th anniversary of the Red Cross in France: 'L'amour en 10 fleurs...'**, ten self-adhesive values in a booklet
 Issue date: May 24, 2014; Design: 1140 Publishing, based on photographs of flowers; Printer: Phil@Poste, gravure; Perforations: die-cut 11 x 11.
 – (€0.61) – roses (bush); – (€0.61) – marguerites; – (€0.61) – red tulips; – (€0.61) – sunflowers; – (€0.61) – irises; – (€0.61) – orchids; – (€0.61) – narcissi; – (€0.61) – lilies; – (€0.61) – carnations; – (€0.61) – gardenias
Notes: stamps are non-denominated, inscribed 'Lettre verte 20g'

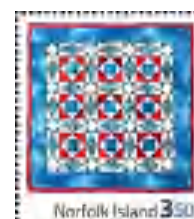
- 028 70th anniversary of the Normandy Landings (D-Day)**, one value and a miniature sheet
 Issue dates: June 5-June 6, 2014; Design: after illustrations by Nicolas Vial; Printer: Phil@Poste, gravure; Perforations: 12.9 x 12.9
 (A) sheet stamp, from sheets of thirty
 €0.66 – Landing craft coming onshore, and troops advancing on beach

- (B) miniature sheet: sold in a folder (pack), priced at €3.20
 €0.66 – Landing craft coming onshore, and troops advancing on beach
 Border depicts panoramic view of a Normandy beach during the D-Day landings (with anomalous paratroops)
Notes: 'First Day' postmarks (inscribed 'Première Jour' were applied to covers on both 5 and 6 June, 2014, at numerous landing locations and at Paris and Bayeux

- 029 Tourism. Pontigny**, one value
 Issue date: June 7, 2014; Design and engraving: Pierre Albuissou; Printer: Phil@Poste, recess; Perforations: 12.9 x 12.9



035



036



041

€0.61 – Pontigny Abbey (founded in 1114) and stained glass window

030 70th anniversary of the Tulle

Massacres, one value

Issue date: June 8, 2014; Design: Jean Didier and ZAD; Printer: Phil@Poste, gravure; Perforations: 13.3 x 13.15

€0.66 – Workers of the town of Tulle ordnance factory in detention at the ordnance factory

Notes: men of Tulle were rounded up by SS Panzer Division Das Reich on 9 June, 1944, herded to the arms factory compound and executed (99) or deported to concentration camps (149)

031 Rail Heritage. Famous Railway Routes

and Trains, twelve self-adhesive values in a booklet

Issue date: June 14, 2014; Design: Stéphane Humbert-Basset; Printer: Phil@Poste, gravure; Perforations: die-cut 11 x 11

Self-adhesive booklet (€7.92) – contains three panes each with four designs (affixed to inside covers)

– (€0.66) – Upper Normandy. Locomotive Buddicom No. 33 (1830)

– (€0.66) – Vallée de Chamnonix. Z-209 multiple unit in crowded station (1901)

– (€0.66) – Paris, Gare du Nord: station view of Pacific locomotive Chapelon Nord 3.1192 (1930) with passengers and porters

– (€0.66) – Haute-Marne. Autorail multiple unit Micheline XM5005, with pneumatic tyres, 1931

– (€0.66) – Côte Vermeille. Mikado 141R 1187 steam locomotive on coastal line (1946)

– (€0.66) – Moselle. LA BB 12125 locomotive (type 25 kV 50 Hz), 1961

– (€0.66) – Île-de-France. Inox Z 6100 suburban electric locomotive (1963)

– (€0.66) – Les Cévennes. BB 66001 diesel locomotive hauling train across viaduct (1959)

– (€0.66) – Les Landes. BB 9004 electric locomotive, 1955 (the train which set speed record between Bordeaux and Dax)

– (€0.66) – Gare de Boulogne-Aéroglišseurs. Turbotrain RTG T 2057 (1973)

– (€0.66) – Limoges. Gare de Benedictins. Train in station (1975)

– (€0.66) – Gare de Belfort-Montbéliard: third generation TGV-duplex (2013):

Cover depicts a station clock

Notes: stamps are non-denominated, inscribed 'Lettre prioritaire 20g'

032 Great Moments in French History series. Battles of 1213 and 1214,

four values in a miniature sheet

Issue date: June 14, 2014; Design: Louis Boursier or Elsa Catalin; Printer: PhilaPoste, recess, and gold foil embossed; Perforations: 12.9

Miniature sheet – contains

1.45€ – Battle of Muret, 1213

1.45€ – Siege of Tournai, 1213

1.65€ – Saint Louis (King Louis IX), 1214-1270 (in style of stained glass window)

1.65€ – Battle of Bouvines, 1214

Notes: this miniature sheet notes Salon du Timbre Stamp Exhibition, Paris: the sheet border depicts stamp collectors and stamp dealers, birds and plants (drawings).

The four stamps have been previously released in miniature sheets of two, in 2013 and April 2014.

The stained glass design has a rounded top

033 150th anniversary of the Birth of Benhamin Rabier, illustrator, cartoonist,

two values and a miniature sheet

Issue date: June 14, 2014; Design: Sophie Beaujard, after original Rabier illustrations; Printer: Phil@Poste, offset;

Perforations: 13.1 x 13.1

Miniature sheet: contains

€0.66 – Gideon Duck (Rabier's best known cartoon character) surrounded by dancing baby animals

€0.66 – Chicken, piglet, squirrel and duck (illustrations) with self-portrait of Benjamin Rabier, 1864-1939

MONTSEERRAT

(previously listed in August 2015 issue)

034 175th anniversary of the Penny Black,

one value in a sheetlet, and one value in a miniature sheet

Issue date: May 15, 2015; Design: IGPC Art Department; Printer: C & Security Printers, China; Perforations: 14 x 14

Sheetlet: contains \$3.25 x 4 – VR official Penny Black with letters in all four corners, mint, and view of Regent Street

Miniature sheet \$7 – VR official Penny Black (with grey-blue stamp background)

035 Seahorses of the Caribbean, four values

in a sheetlet, and a miniature sheet

Issue date: May 28, 2015; Printer: C & Security Printers, China; Perforations: 13.75 x 13.75

Sheetlet: contains

\$3.25 – Longsnout Seahorse, *Hippocampus reidi*

\$3.25 – Lined Seahorse, *Hippocampus erectus*

\$3.25 – Head of Lined Seahorse, *Hippocampus erectus*

\$3.25 – Longsnout Seahorses (pair), *Hippocampus reidi*

Miniature sheet: \$7 – Dwarf Sea horse, *Hippocampus zosterae*, and sea grass

NORFOLK ISLAND

(previously listed in August 2015 issue)

036 Locally Made Quilts, five values

Issue date: October 17, 2014; Designs: from photographs; Printer: Southern Colour Print, NZ; Perforations: 14.6 x 14.4

15c – Quilt with rectangular/diamond floral patterning

70c – Quilt with repeating patterns of Norfolk Island motifs

\$1.40 – Quilt featuring Norfolk Island scenes and fauna and flora (birds, marine life, flowers)

\$1.50 – Quilt featuring Norfolk Island pines

\$3.50 – Quilt with chequer patterning

037 Christmas 2014, five values

Issue date: November 3, 2014; Design: Mary Pavich from hand-printed textile designs by Norfolk Islander Sue Pearson; Printing: litho, Southern Colour Print, NZ;

Perforations: 14.25 x 14.25

15c – Repeating leaf pattern in blue and green

65c – Repeating leaf and flower pattern in maroon

\$1.79 – Repeating plant and turtle-shell pattern in purple, green and blue

\$1.80 – Repeating plant pattern in silver and green

\$2.55 – Repeating leaf and flower pattern in dark red

038 225th anniversary of the Wreck of HMS

Sirius on Norfolk Island, ten self-adhesive values in a booklet

Issue date: March 19, 2015;

Printer: Southern Colour Print, NZ, offset;

Perforations: die-cut 10.75 x 10

Self-adhesive booklet (\$7.00):

70c – Diver visiting the underwater monument to the wreck and its victims

70c – Painting by John Alcott of HMS *Sirius*

70c – Painting *The Melancholy Loss of HMS Sirius* by John Raper

70c – Cross belt plate (excavated from) HMS *Sirius*

70c – Painting of Captain John Hunter (captain of the First Settlement fleet and HMS *Sirius*)

70c – Anchor lying on the ocean bed



044



046



051



053

70c – Painting by Francis Bayldon of HMS *Sirius* in profile
 70c – Cannonades
 70c – Bronze shackles (recovered from the wreck)
 70c – Pantograph positioned over a chart
Notes: the flagship of the First Fleet was caught in a storm whilst offshore, struck a reef and was holed on March 19, 1790

039 ANZAC Day 2015. Remembrance: the Gallipoli Campaign, 1915, one value in a miniature sheet
 Issue date: April 24, 2015; Design: Mary Pavicich, after photograph; Printer: Southern Colour Print, NZ; Perforations: 13.4 x 13.4
 Miniature sheet \$5 – Norfolk Island war memorial (cenotaph), flanked by flags of Norfolk and Australia, on poles

040 The Norfolk Island Pine, *Araucaria heterophylla*, ten self-adhesive values in a booklet
 Issue date: June 1, 2015; Design: Mary Pavicich, after photographs; Printer: Southern Colour Print, NZ; Perforations: die-cut 10 x 10.75
 Self-adhesive booklet (\$1.50) - contains
 15c – Branches of Norfolk pine against rosy clouds
 15c – Young pine cones, still growing
 15c – Seedlings of Norfolk pine
 15c – Plantation of (mature) Norfolk pines
 15c – Seeds lying by burst pine cone
 15c – Branches of a Norfolk pine (illustrating their geometric uniformity)
 15c – Pine needles on forest floor
 15c – Trunk of an ancient Norfolk pine
 15c – New shoots coming from a cropped pine tree

Booklet cover depicts pine plantation
Notes: 15c represents the 'local rate' for letters posted and delivered within Norfolk Island. These ten designs were previously issued with 70c denomination, in a \$7 booklet, on September 29, 2014

POLAND

(previously listed in May 2015 issue)

041 Birds of Poland. The Bee-eater, one value in a miniature sheet
 Issue date: July 31, 2014; Design: Marzanna Dabrowska; Printer: PWPW, Poland, offset; Perforations: 11.5 x 11.5 with elliptical cut-outs on vert. sides
 Miniature sheet 5.50zł – European Bee-eater, *Merops apiaster*, on a tree branch

Border depicts bee-eater in flight over a flowering meadow

042 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising, one value in a miniature sheet
 Issue date: August 1, 2014; Design: from illustration by Agnieszka Sancewicz; Printer: PWPW, offset; Perforations: 11.5 x 11.75 with elliptical cut-outs on vertical sides.
 Miniature sheet 5.50zł – Witold Kiezun, serving as a 2nd Lieutenant in special combat unit Hamas during the uprising
Notes: Kiezun (born 1922) later became an economist with a world-wide reputation

043 The Polish Legion in the Great War, one value in a miniature sheet (composite design)
 Issue date: August 6, 2014; Design: Karol Tabaka and Przemysław Krajewski (drawings); Printer: PWPW, recess and gravure; Perforations 11.25 x 11.25
 Miniature sheet 8.50zł: Portrait of the Polish military officer Józef Piłsudski in uniform (c.1914)
 Background and border depicts Polish legionaries training in shooting near Zakopane, 1913

044 Polish Madonnas (icon paintings) from the eastern borderlands, two values
 Issue date: August 14, 2014; Design: Agnieszka Sancewicz; Printer: PWPW, gravure; Perforations: 11 x 11.25
 1.75zł – Mother of God from Drohobysch
 4.20zł – Mother of God from Kochawina
Notes: both paintings were patriated by emigrants from Polish communities in what is now Ukraine (former Polish territory incorporated in the USSR after 1945)

045 Fungi, four values, in a sheetlet of four values and two labels
 Issue date: August 29, 2014; Design: Marzanna Dabrowska; Printer: PWP, offset; Perforations: 11.5 x 11.5 with elliptical cut-outs on horizontal sides
 Sheetlet: contains stamps depicting
 1.75zł – *Cantharellus cibarius*
 2.35zł – *Agaricus campestris*
 3.75zł – *Russula vesca*
 4.20zł – *Boletus edulis*
 Each stamp has an adjacent se-tenant label depicting an inedible and/or poisonous fungus of similar appearance to the species shown on the stamps (*Hygrophoropsis aurantiaca*, *Amanita virosa*, *Russula emetica*, *Tyloporus felleus*)

046 FIVB Men's World Volleyball Championships, held in Poland September – October 2014, six values in a miniature sheet with six tabs (tournament logos)
 Issue date: August 30, 2014; Design: Karol Tabaka, depicting volleyball moves / actions; Printer: PWPW, offset; Perforations: 11.75 with elliptical cut-outs on vertical sides
 1.75zł – Smash
 1.75zł – Overhead serve
 2.25zł – Set
 5zł – Pitch
 5.10zł – Bump
 5.50zł – Spike

047 'Smiles Heal' – clown hospital visitors, one value
 Issue date: August 30, 2014; Design: Agatha Tobolczyk; Printer: PWPW, offset; Perforations: 11.5 x 11.75
 1.75zł – Stethoscope and Red Nose arranged in shape of face of a clown, and logo of the Dr Clown Foundation

048 Polish Street Art. Work of Natalia Rak, one value in a miniature sheet
 Issue date: September 25, 2014; Design: Robert Duczkowski; Printer: PWPW, offset; Perforations: 11.75 x 11.5 with elliptical cut-outs on horizontal sides
 Miniature sheet 4.50zł and border – Mural on end of a four-storey city house, depicting girl with a watering can (to water a bush growing by house wall)

049 Alternative Energy Sources, four values in a sheetlet
 Issue date: September 29, 2014; Design: Agata Tobolczyk; Printer: PWPW, offset; Perforations: 11.5 x 11.5
 Sheetlet of eight stamps (two blocks of four designs) –
 1.75zł x 2 – Island with parkland, one sector incorporating barrage for hydro-electric power (also a bird)
 1.75zł x 2 – Island one sector with tall buildings and solar panels
 1.75zł x 2 – Island with parkland, containing geothermal energy installations (and power pylon)
 1.75zł x 2 – Island with parkland and wind turbine

Notes: the four designs form a composite artwork using considerable artistic license – the right hand block of four is inverted (producing a tête-bêche arrangement)





058

50 World Atmospheric and Weather Phenomena, four values

Issue date: September 30, 2014;
Design: Marzanna Dabrowska, based upon photographs; Printer: PWPW, litho and serigraphy (screen-printing); Perforations: 11.5 x 11.5 with elliptical cut-outs on horizontal sides
1.75zł – Northern lights (Aurora borealis)
2.35zł – Halo
4.20zł – Volcanic ash cloud
5.50zł – Ice crystals

Notes: printed in sheets of sixteen stamps containing the four designs in four se-tenant composite strips. The border depicts ice crystals and snow flakes



060

051 Jan Nowak-Jezioranski, 1914-2005, Home Army hero (1940-1945) and Radio Presenter, one value

Issue date: October 2, 2014;
Design: Karol Tabaka; Printer: PWPW, gravure;
Perforations 11.5 x 11.25

20zł – Portrait of Nowak-Jezioranski, and microphone inscribed RFE (Radio Free Europe)

Notes: member of the Home Army, acted as an undercover courier during the German occupation, undertaking three missions to Britain – one to meet with Churchill and Polish government in exile, one to meet with Allies in Italian peninsula, one (1944) to convey critical documents and photographs to safety. Radio Free Europe broadcast to eastern Europe from West Germany, from 1949

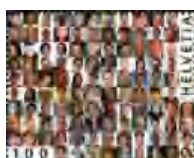


061

052 Life of the Coral Reefs, and WARSZAWA 2014 Stamp Exhibition, eight values in two formats

Issue date: October 10, 2014; Design: Jacek Konarzewski; Perforations: 11.5 x 11.25
(A) sheets of sixteen (two sets of eight stamps) containing

35gr – Arabian surgeon fish, *Acanthurus sohal*
45gr – Four-eye butterflyfish, *Chaetodon capistratus*
55gr – Blue ribbon eel, *Rhinomuraena quaesita*
65gr – Sea horse, *Hippocampus sp.*
1.10zł – Clown triggerfish, *Balistoides conspicillum*
1.20zł – Blue-face angelfish, *Pomacanthus xanthurus*
1.30zł – Copperband butterflyfish, *Chelmon rostratus*
1.40zł – False clownfish, *Amphiprion ocellaris*
(B) sheetlet (4 x 3) of twelve stamps and four labels, sold at a premium over face value
35gr; 45gr; 55gr; 65gr; 1.10zł;
1.20zł; 1.30zł; 1.40zł



063



065



066



071

Notes: labels, in positions 1,6,7 and 12, carry emblems of philatelic bodies

SAINT HELENA

(previously listed in February 2015 issue)

053 Centenary of the Brownies,

five values inscribed The Big Brownie Birthday in a miniature sheet

Issue date: October 15, 2014;
Designer and printer: not reported, offset printed. Perforations: 14 x 14.75
Miniature sheet: contains

25p – Brownie badge, with gold shamrock, inscribed St Helena Ascension Brownies 100 Years
40p – The Jamestown Brownies
60p – Pat Benjamin presenting a bouquet to Princess Margaret
70p – Brownie Pack, 1960
£1 – Brownie Pack (group depiction) on Thinking Day 2014

054 Christmas 2014. Marine Life, six values

Issue date: October 15, 2014;
Designer and Printer, not reported, offset;
Perforations 14 x 14

25p – Whale Shark
30p – Seaslug
40p – Gregory (fish)
50p – Cunning Fish
60p – Silver Eel
£1 – Orange Cup Coral

055 Sport. St Helena at the Commonwealth Games, four values

Issue date: October 20, 2014;
Design: Andrew Robinson, from photographs;
Printer: not reported; Perforations: 14 x 14
30p – St Helena team at the Commonwealth Games, Brisbane, 1982
50p – Crew members of RMS *St Helena* with the Queen's Baton, 2014
60p – St Helena National Amateur Sports Association, 2014
£1 – St Helena team at the Commonwealth Games, Glasgow, 2014

056 The RMS *St Helena*, three values and a miniature sheet

Issue date: October 31, 2014; Designs: from photograph and badge; Printer: not reported, offset; Perforations: 14 x 14

25p – Laying of the keel, badge
30p – Hull construction, badge
50p – Hull on launch day, October 31, 1989, and badge

Miniature sheet 60p – RMS *St Helena* sea trials

SWITZERLAND

(not previously listed)

057 500th anniversary of the integration of Appenzell Ausserrhoden and Appenzell Innerhoden into the Swiss Confederation, one value

Issue date: March 7, 2013; Design: Brigitte Schärer; Printer: Giesecke & Devrient, Leipzig, offset; Perforations 13.25 x 13.5

100c – Saänen goat kid, Swiss mountain dog, view of Appenzell mountains, and Cantonal designators AR and AI

058 150th anniversary of the Swiss Alpine Club, four values in a miniature sheet

Issue date: March 7, 2013; Design: Christian Kitzmüller; Printer: Giesecke & Devrient, Leipzig, offset; Perforations: 12 x 12 with one two or three imperf edges (stamps are located at edge of sheet)

Miniature sheet, contains (composite design)
85c – Alpine touring party crossing an icefield;
100c – Rock-climbing; 140c – Family hiking together on path, and early hikers; 190c – The Doldendorn mountain hut

059 125th anniversary of the birth of

Gottlieb Duttweiler, 1888-1962, one value

Issue date: March 7, 2013; Design: Christian Kitzmüller; Printer: Giesecke & Devrient, Leipzig; Perforations 13.5 x 13.5

100c – Portrait of the politician and founder of the Migros grocery chain, delivery truck of 1925

060 Centenary of the Lötschberg Railway, one value

Issue date: March 7, 2013;
Design: Marc Weller; Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations: 13.25 x 13.5

100c – Train hauled by RABE 535 locomotive on the Kander viaduct

061 75th anniversary of the Swiss Council for Accident Prevention (BFU), one value

Issue date: March 7, 2015;
Design: René Sager; Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations: 13.25 x 13.5

85c – Council's acronym in three language forms (BFU / BPA / UPI), and legs of cyclist and pedestrian

062 Civil Protection. 50th anniversary of the Swiss Protection and Support Services, one value

Issue date: March 7, 2013;
Design: Urs Lieber; Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations 13.25 x 13.5

85c – Coats of arms of the Swiss

Cantons, and two safety helmets (old and modern styles)

063 Faces of Switzerland,

one value in a sheetlet of six
Issue date: March 7, 2013;
Design: Martine Dietrich-Chatagny; Printer: Gutenberg AG, Schaan, Liechtenstein, offset;
Perforations: 12 x 12
100c – Miniatures (squares) of 111 faces of men, women and children, from photographs

Notes: members of the public could submit their images online for possible inclusion on the stamp, deadline January 2, 2013; 111 images were chosen

064 150th anniversary of the birth of Ernst Kreidolf, 1863-1956, Artist and Illustrator,

two self-adhesive values in a booklet
Issue date: March 7, 2013; Design: Martine Dietrich-Chatagny, after floral book illustrations by Kreidolf; Printer: Enschedé, offset;
Perforations die-cut 13 x 13
Booklet (10.00fr): contains ten stamps affixed to inside covers
100c x 5 – *Autumn Migration* – Crickets, carrying autumnal leaves, marching in a line
100c x 5 – *With the Pansies* – Butterfly and pansies (flowers) in conversation

065 Europa 2013. Postal Transport,
two values

Issue date: May 7, 2013; Design: Peter Hummel; Printer: Gutenberg AG, Schaan, Liechtenstein; Perforations: 13.5 x 13.5
100c – Tribelhorn electric three-wheeler delivery van of 1921 (used until 1950)
100c – Kybürz DXP electric three-wheeled scooter (introduced 2011-2012)

Notes: printed in a single sheet of sixteen stamps, with panel of eight Tribelhorn at left and panel of eight Kybürz at right

066 The Venice Biennale (international art exhibition), one value

Issue date: May 7, 2013; Design: Valentin Carron; Printer: Giesecke & Devrient, Leipzig; Perforations: 13.25 x 13.5
100c – They, I, You, He, We – A metal snake sculpture by Carron

067 Action Plan for the White Stork,

one self-adhesive value
Issue date: May 7, 2013;
Design: Corinne Oesch; Printer: Enschedé, offset; Perforations: 14.25 x 13.75
100c – White Stork, *Ciconia nigra*, reeds, outline of Switzerland

Notes: Action Plan initially involves creating stork friendly environment (breeding grounds) along the Aare river around Solothurn

068 Pro Patria 2013. Exhibits from the smaller Museums of Switzerland, four values and a booklet

Issue date: May 7, 2013; Design: Vito Noto; Printing: offset; Perforations: 14.25 x 13.75 (A) stamps from sheetlets of six
80 + 40c – Straw hat (1920) from Strohmuseum, Wohlen
85 + 40c – Wax toad, a talisman/devotional gift for the Black Madonna Of Einseideln, from Museum Fram, Einseideln
100 + 50c – A carpenter's plane of early 20th century, from the Bagnes Museum, Villette
100 + 50c – Wood carving of a gort (a cow with unusual markings), as might be made by a farmer on winter nights, from Toggenburger Museum, Lichtenstein
Notes: the plane was likely made by the skilled craftsman who used it in his workshop
(B) stamp booklet, containing
pane of 85 + 40c carpenter's plane, x six copies
pane of 100 + 50c x 4 gort, x four copies

069 Definitives: Flowers of Vegetables series, two self-adhesive values

Issue date: May 7, 2013; Design: Reinhard Fluri; Printing: Enschedé, offset;
Perforations: die-cut 12 x 12
130c – Sweet bellpepper flowers, *Capsicum annum*
220c – Leek flowers, *Allium pomum*
Notes: issued in 'business sheets' of ten and in a flat pane of one of each value

070 Switzerland, Silver Medallists at the World Ice Hockey Championships 2013,

one value
Issue date: May 31, 2013; Design: Beat Leuenberger and Jürg Glauser; Printer: Gutenberg AG, Schaan, Liechtenstein; Perforations: 13.25 x 13.5
100c – Swiss ice-hockey team in group huddle around their goal-minder

VATICAN CITY

(previously listed in August 2015 issue)

071 350th anniversary of the Synod of Aytthaya, one value

Issue date: August 28, 2014; Printer: Printex, Malta, offset; Perforations: 13.6 x 13.6
€2.00 – Missionaries received by Pope Alexander III, and the Church of St Joseph of Ayutthaya in Thailand (early eighteenth century)
Notes: joint issue with Thailand

072 150th anniversary of the birth of Richard Strauss, German composer and conductor, one value

Issue date: August 28, 2014; Design: after a sketch by Marco Ventura; Printer: Printex, Malta, offset; Perforations: 13.5 x 13.7
€0.70 – Richard Strauss conducting



072

073 Pope Pius X, 1835-1914 (centenary of death), one value

Issue date: August 28, 2014;
Printer: FNMT (Spanish State Mint); Perforations: 12.75 x 12.75
€2.00 – Monument to the Pope (Giuseppe Sarto) in St Peter's Basilica, by Pier Enrico Astorri



073

074 25th anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall, one value

Issue date: August 28, 2014; Design: after photograph by Micahel Relner; Printer: Printex, Malta; Perforations: 14.25 x 14.25
€0.85 – A Berliner demolishing the concrete wall which divided East from West Berlin with hammer and chisel (November 1989)



075 450th anniversary of the Death of Michaelangelo Buonaroto, 1475-1564, two values

Issue date: November 21, 2014;
Printer: Post Printing House, Prague, offset; Perforations: 11.25 x 11.75
€0.70 – The Crucifixion of St Peter
€0.85 – The Conversion of St Paul



074

076 450th anniversary of the Birth of William Shakespeare, one value

Issue date: November 21, 2014;
Design: Marina Richterover; Printer: Printex, Malta, offset; Perforations: 13.5 x 13.5
€0.85 – Shakespeare holding a daisy (painting)
Notes: printed in sheets of ten with illustrated borders



075

077 Christmas 2014. Painting by Raul Soldi, 1905-1994, one value

Issue date: November 21, 2014;
Printer: Cartor, France, offset; Perforations 13.4 x 13.4
€0.85 – The Birth of Christ (large scale fresco, in Church of Saint Anne, Glew, Argentina, 1953)
Notes: Argentinian artist who also lived and studied in Italy



076



077

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Delcampe.net

The Collectables marketplace

The website Delcampe.net was created in 2000 by Sebastian Delcampe. Nowadays, over 900.000 collectors worldwide have joined the website. Thanks to its 60 million listings, Delcampe has become the biggest worldwide collectables marketplace.

Delcampe offers its users a synchronization tool

Delcampe.net has always been looking for solutions to make it easier for sellers to list on the website.

One of the main concerns of most sellers was the fact that they wanted to keep on using other selling venues.

To overcome this, Delcampe has recently signed a partnership with the website **www.easyStore.net**

This company has developed a tool which **synchronizes listings on eBay and on Delcampe.**



How does easyStore work?

All your eBay listings will be automatically duplicated on Delcampe.

If an item is sold on one of the websites, it is automatically closed on the other website.

Just create an account on easyStore.net and connect your eBay and Delcampe stores to it.

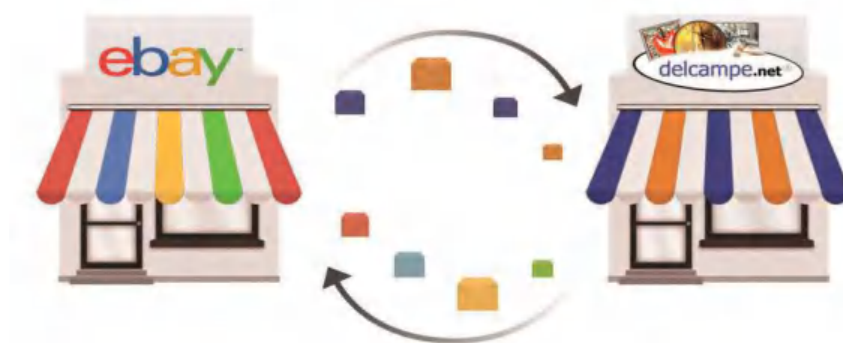
You'll be then asked to choose between

- * synchronizing all of your store (fixed price and auctions)
- * synchronizing your fixed price items only
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Battle of Britain recalled on 50p

A new 50p coin featuring pilots who took part in the Battle of Britain has been issued by The Royal Mint to mark the 75th anniversary of the historic Second World War aerial battle.

The coin, designed by Gary Breeze, features an obverse showing a trio of airmen scrambling for their planes ready to counter the threat of enemy aircraft approaching overhead.

Gary Breeze is a renowned sculptor with major commissions found throughout the UK, including the Bali Bombing Memorial at Horse Guards Road, London and the Christ Church Cloister fountain in Oxford. Gary said: 'In some ways the Battle of Britain appeals to our innate joy at winning against tremendous odds. I wanted to celebrate that in one sense. But I think that remembering the cost of war is more relevant today. I spent a good deal of time concentrating on the machines at first, but the aircraft didn't say enough about the sacrifice of life or the meaning of the Battle today.'

'I've always recalled my grandfather talking of the skies being dark because there were so many bombers. I believe he was in fact talking about our own planes flying out, but I wanted to illustrate that threat and sense of danger. I would like people to be reminded of the selfless



sacrifice of the Few. The airmen run away from us. They don't walk slowly to their fate, and we may never see them again.'

The 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain 2015 50p is expected to enter general circulation later this year in recognition of the commemorations. It is also available from The Royal Mint in limited edition mintages as a Silver Proof Coin, Silver Proof Piedfort Coin or as a Gold Proof Coin, and in a Brilliant Uncirculated finish.

TALKING TOKENS

An interesting pub check

In the showcase this month is a brass pub check. What can we learn from it?

It was issued by the landlord of the Royal Oak Inn, Shelton, Staffs; probably in the 1920s or 1930s, as this was the pinnacle of popularity for the use of pub checks.

The landlord, F. Hall, had formed a company before the token was issued. The company also operated as a wine and spirits merchant.

The Royal Oak had a bowling alley; almost certainly a nine-pin skittle alley during those decades. The entrance fee of 2d was quite low for the period. Most pubs charged 3d or even 6d.

No maker's mark appears on the check, but the general style and lettering strongly suggests a maker in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter, where many die sinkers served the brass check requirements of Midlands and Welsh pub landlords.

This check changed ownership at some time during its circulation. The initials J.H. countermarked on the piece offer the possibility of a son of the previous landlord taking over, perhaps when F. Hall retired? We can reasonably assume



The customer who bought this entrance ticket for entertainments at the Royal Oak worked up a thirst for more beer by competing strenuously in the skittle alley. He could later redeem any tokens he won during the games for more pints

that the Royal Oak's bowling alley operated in one of two ways:

The 2d paid covered entrance, use of the equipment and participation in games either throughout the evening or for a fixed session; or, up to eight men bought a token apiece at 2d, then played skittles for them until one man had all the tokens. When he returned eight tokens to the bar the landlord credited him with eight glasses of penny-a-pint beer. This popular

arrangement allowed men to indulge in a little gambling without breaking the law by playing games for money. The landlord was happy because he made a penny on every pint sold.

Further research on the pub's history reveals that the Associated Engravers Friendly Society held a meeting (possibly inaugural) at the Royal Oak Inn, Shelton, Staffs on 10 July, 1835. I wonder if the members played a game of outdoor skittles after their meeting...

Lottery cash for Roman Hoards

The Museum of Liverpool and Congleton Museum have received £65,400 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for an exciting project that will help to acquire two locally-discovered hoards of Roman treasure.

The Hoards of Cheshire project includes objects found by metal detectorists in Knutsford and Malpas which were reported to archaeologists through the Portable Antiquities Scheme, funded by the British Museum, and declared 'Treasure'. Following their cleaning and cataloguing at the British Museum, they will return to the North West for display.

The Knutsford hoard contains three gilt brooches, two finger rings and over 100 coins; the Malpas hoard incorporates Iron Age and Roman coins.

The Hoards of Cheshire project will also enable local young people to work with archaeologists and museum curators to learn about the region's Romano-British period; the outcome of which will feature in an exhibition opening at the Museum of Liverpool later this year, followed by a run at Congleton Museum.

Janet Dugdale, Director of the Museum of Liverpool, said: 'We are thrilled to have received the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund for this exciting project to bring these important archaeological finds back to the region. We are delighted to be working in partnership with Congleton Museum to ensure that these two fascinating collections will be retained in the North West for future generations to enjoy.'



Britain's longest reign celebrated on new coin

Pobjoy Mint has revealed details of a new coin, being issued on behalf of the Isle of Man Government, to mark Queen Elizabeth II becoming the longest ever reigning Monarch in British history.

The coin features an image of Her Majesty on Horseback which is taken from Her Majesty's original Great Seal of the Realm. The Great Seal is used to symbolise the Sovereign's approval of important state documents. Sealing wax is melted in a metal mould and impressed into a wax disc that is attached by cord or ribbon to documents that the Monarch wishes to make official. Each time a new Monarch accedes to the throne, a new Great Seal is produced and is only replaced for a particular Monarch if the silver plate wears out.

Available in Cupro Nickel, Proof Sterling Silver and 5oz Fine Silver, the obverse of the coin features an effigy of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Lord of Mann, by Ian Rank-Broadley FRBS. The design on each coin is in relief with a glorious mirror-finish background.



Auction Highlights



A Russian medal marking the accession of Catherine II of 18 June, 1762, was recently sold at Spink in London. The large platinum medal by Waechter, shows a helmeted and cuirassed bust of Catherine as Minerva left, signed waechter below. The reverse depicts Catherine being offered the crown by a kneeling Russia supported by St George, whilst an angel points to Providence in clouds above. With some edge bruising and a light scratch in left obverse field, otherwise extremely fine, the piece was described as 'an impressive medal of the highest rarity'.

SOLD FOR: £87,000



A pair of American colonial coins recently went under the hammer at Stack's Bowers Galleries. The lot featured a 1723 Rosa Americana Halfpenny and a 1723 Wood's Hibernia Halfpenny. Before the 1790s trade in America was conducted using tokens, coins, medals and counterfeits, and a series of colonial coins was produced. Many are now found by metal detectorists in the USA.

SOLD FOR: £97



The Hodgson collection of forty coins, formed around the Kings of Wessex and all England and attempting to represent each ruler and, in the late Anglo-Saxon coinage, each type, was recently offered at Spink. Amongst the coins was an Alfred the Great (871-899) penny from Wessex. Described as 'Londonia monogram type, c.880-83, a most presentable piece' the coin bears the portrait of one of the most iconic images of Alfred.

SOLD FOR: £5,500

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Yorkshire Museum hosts numismatic meeting

The Joint meeting of the Royal and British Numismatic Societies was recently hosted by the Yorkshire Numismatic Societies in the Yorkshire Museum, York, writes Andrew Woods, Curator of Numismatics, York Museums Trust.

The meeting was 'loosely focused on hoarding with a chronological range which spanned the Iron Age to the seventeenth-century' and featured eight papers delivered by speakers ranging from young scholars to established authorities. The event was started with a brief welcome by Andrew Woods, introducing attendees to the Museum and the Historic library. Andrew Burnett (President, RNS) formally began proceedings with a welcome on behalf of the Royal Numismatic Society and chairing the first session.

The first session considered hoarding in the Iron Age and Roman periods with Philip de Jersey (Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery) and Eleanor Ghey (British Museum) tackling each respectively. Drawing upon his recently published book, Philip focused on Northern hoards, beginning by highlighting the relative paucity in the north when compared to southern England.

The second session shifted the focus to the Early Medieval period with Tony Abramson (University of York and President, YNS) considering the use of Anglian coinage in Northumbria. Marshalling a huge dataset, he was able to highlight some quite stark differences in the use of coinage within an early medieval kingdom, with certain parts of Northumbria showing earlier and more concentrated use of coinage. Andrew Woods (York Museums Trust) discussed the Vale of York Viking hoard, recently returned to the Yorkshire Museum. He gave preliminary results of a die-study and argued for the peaceful accumulation of much of the hoard; trade rather than raid.

Other subjects covered during the day included the medieval and early modern periods; the imagery of Stuart coins; and the biographies of coinage across periods. The day proved a success, much of which was due to an excellent set of speakers as well as an engaged and knowledgeable audience who kept the speakers on their toes with some tricky queries.

For more information on the Yorkshire Numismatic Society visit the website: yorkshirenumismatic.blogspot.com



Dr Eleanor Ghey of The British Museum discusses Hoarding in Roman Britain; delegates pictured in the historic library at the Yorkshire Museum

2p coin fetches £800 on ebay

A rare cupro-nickel 2p coin, recently discovered in a hospital donation box by a volunteer, has been sold for £802 on ebay, with the funds going towards vital medical equipment.

The 2p piece was spotted by Becky Jennings in the donation box of the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading, who immediately noticed the silver appearance of the coin. The rare coin is one of a handful produced in 1971 after an error was made during the minting process. Mark Goff, Royal Berks charity director, said: 'We're absolutely thrilled that the coin fetched £802. Quite a mark up on 2p!'



In brief

The Royal Mint has launched its new Britannia 2015 Proof Coin Collection in fine gold and fine silver. The collection includes individual coins such



as the UK's smallest coin, weighing just one fortieth-ounce and exceptional sets like the Premium Six-Coin Set. A spokesperson said: 'The 2015 Britannia has a nautical-theme and was designed by Antony Dufort. It has a contemporary, simple and elegant feel, with the icon at the forefront, wearing her familiar Corinthian helmet and holding the trident, a nod to her maritime might. A masted ship with billowing sails reinforces the traditional seafaring nature of the island nation Britannia represents to this day.'



A special edition UK 925 sterling silver £5 coin has been minted by the Royal Mint in honour of the second birthday of His Royal Highness,

Prince George of Cambridge. The coin bears a contemporary re-imagining of the St George and the dragon legend by esteemed artist Christopher Le Brun RA.

Pobjoy Mint has revealed details of a new collector's coin which features the Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota, USA, and commemorates



the 150th anniversary of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth President of the United States of America. Issued on behalf of the British Virgin Islands Government, the coin has a \$10 denomination and features a 3D effect with the depiction of the four famous American Presidents rising above the surface of the coin.

A hoard of gold coins dating between 1831 and 1910, hidden away by the Nazis during the Second World War, has been discovered in a field in northern Germany. The coins are thought to have been stolen during the war.



Steve Webb uses both his telescope and magnifying glass to examine the skies and some examples of astronomy found on ancient and medieval coins

Do you ever glance out of the corner of your jaundiced eye at a horoscope column in a daily newspaper or magazine? Utter balderdash, of course; yet by glancing (I do it too) you are perpetuating a tradition we can trace back to the Stone Age when ancient peoples created images of suns, moons and stars on cave walls while their shaman performed rituals to conjure meaning in the movements

Below: an Athens tetradrachm of circa 390 BC showing on its obverse the crescent moon and olive leaves probably added to celebrate victory at the Battle of Marathon; a thunderbolt from Zeus on the reverse of a bronze Seleucid coin dating from 312-280 BC

of celestial bodies crossing and re-crossing the sky.

As early as 1200 BC a talented artist working by oil-lamp deep in the Lascaux caves left us a magnificent mural depicting a running bull with the stars of the Pleiades (Seven Sisters) constellation above its head. Recent research has identified more markings within the bull figure that may have told ancient observers where to look in the heavens to find other stars in the region of the sky we now assign to Taurus the Bull and to the Pleiades on our horoscope star charts graphically displayed in modern newspapers.

The classic star map with twelve signs of the zodiac was developed in Mesopotamia more than 3,000 years ago. Inherited by the Greeks around 500 BC, its signs and the symbolic meanings of associated creatures of the zodiac soon came to feature as images on the coins of rulers of the Ancient World's cities and states, as they began to strike and circulate the coins as indicators of their authority. Probably the earliest to feature a celestial object – in this case a crescent or waning moon – was the silver tetradrachm of Athens, a city that trailed Lydia by some fifty years as a coin issuer. The first coin of

the city had Athena, goddess of war and wisdom, as its obverse, with the equally famous owl, Athena's faithful attendant, on the reverse alongside lettering referring to the Citizens of Athens. More than a decade later, olive leaves and a crescent moon were added to the reverses of subsequent issues. Some authorities argue that the waning crescent referred to the moon as it appeared in the sky during the great Athenian victory over the Persians at the Battle of Marathon in 490 BC. The foliage was added in homage to Athena for her gift of olive trees to the city. It is also suggested that the additional imagery sought to carry propaganda telling of Athenian successes in war to those areas of the eastern Mediterranean in which the owl coins were soon circulating as trade expanded.

The Seleucids – Hellenistic supporters of Alexander the Great – acquired their lands in Asia Minor, Syria and Mesopotamia when the Macedonian Empire broke up following Alexander's death in 312 BC. They used a number of astronomical symbols on their coinage, including crescent moons, five-pointed stars and thunderbolts. They believed that Zeus hurled





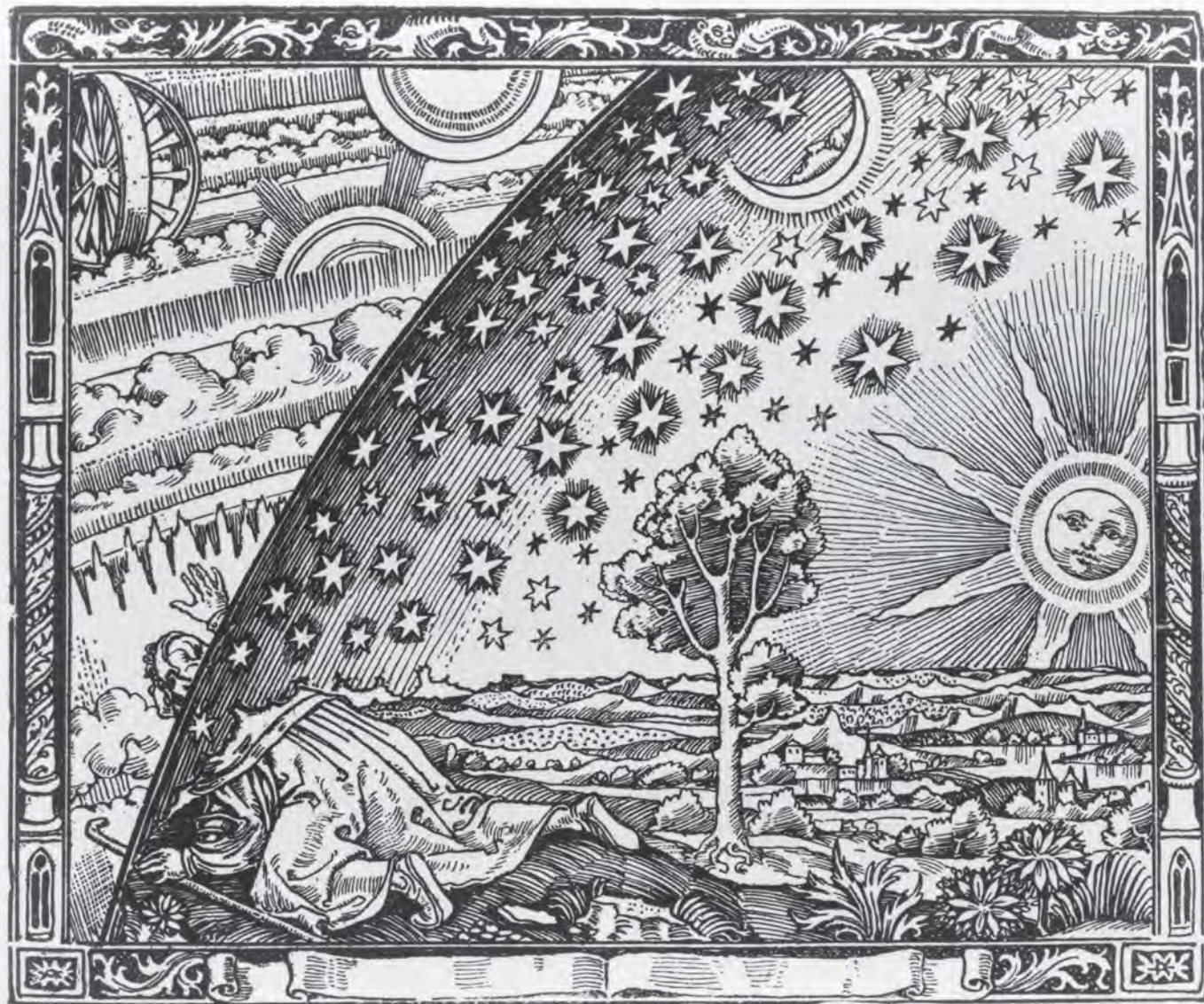
Clockwise from top right: this bronze of Pontus, issued c. 160-130 BC, depicts an eight-point star or sunburst; following its conquest by Rome, the Seleucid city of Antioch continued to use crescent moons and stars on its local coinage; this denarius of Manius Aquilius, struck c. 109 BC, shows the moon goddess riding through the Aquilla constellation. The star cluster was probably visible in the night sky at that date; the word TRIO within the Septem Triones star group on the reverse of this coin was a pun on the moneyer's name Lucius Lucretius Trio

Left: this engraving shows Galileo offering his telescope to three women (possibly Urania and attendants) seated on a throne; he is pointing toward the sky where some of his astronomical discoveries are depicted (image: Library of Congress)

thunderbolts to demonstrate his anger; though we now interpret what humans witnessed as probably meteorite fragments landing nearby. One of their bronze coins from Syria around 312-280 BC, shows the god's laureate head on its obverse, with a thunderbolt taking up most of the reverse. During the Roman era a number of cities in the region continued to display astronomical symbols on their coins. Antioch, for example, issued bronze coins displaying large crescent moons and stars. Further north, and just beyond Seleucid influence on the shores of the Black Sea, the region known as Pontus issued bronze coins c.160 to 130 BC with large eight-pointed stars or sunbursts.

Roman coins

Turning to Roman coins, an interesting example comes from c.75 BC when a moneyer named Lucius Lucretius Trio struck a denarius with a personification of the god Sol on its obverse. The reverse depicted a crescent moon and a group of seven stars within which the moneyer placed his cognomen, or hereditary name, 'TRIO'. The group of stars were probably the Septem Triones from the constellation of Ursa Major; in other words, the moneyer made a pun on his own name. Another Roman, Manius Aquilius,



did something similar with the stars of the Aquilla constellation, which he placed on the reverse of a coin struck in AD 94 accompanied by the personified moon goddess, Luna, riding a bigga across the night sky between the stars while Sol occupied the coin's obverse.

Caesar's Comet, perhaps the best known celestial occurrence in Roman history, appeared in the daylight sky during 44 BC, not long after Julius Caesar's assassination. It remained brightly visible for seven days and later became a powerful symbol of political propaganda for Caesar's adopted son Augustus, who built a temple to his benefactor – The Temple of Divus Julius – in the Forum at Rome. A large statue of Caesar with a flaming comet on its head attracted worshippers from far and wide. Augustus struck a denarius in AD 19 depicting his own laureate bust

French illustration showing a man on earth peering through the universe to what was believed in the middle ages to lie beyond

Right: this bronze coin of Julian II (AD 360-363) dates the sacrifice of a bull by indicating the locations of stars on the day the ceremony took place. Julian was the last pagan emperor. He died in battle against the Persians



and the legend 'CAESAR AVGVSTVS' on the obverse. The reverse showed a large eight-rayed comet with the legend 'DIVVS IVLIVS'.

Around that time, stories of the Star of Bethlehem and the Wise Men who followed its trail began to circulate. Some astronomers link the event to an eclipse of the planet Jupiter as its path crossed stars in the constellation

of Aries in 6 BC. A coin issued by the governor of Roman Syria may allude to the Wise Men by depicting on its reverse a ram (an ancient symbol for the Jews) looking into the sky at a large star. Astrologists will know that the ram personifies Aries; some historians have described the Aries constellation as a symbol for Judea; and that it was from out of Judea that the wise men would

journey to Bethlehem.

A denarius of the emperor Hadrian struck in Rome circa AD 129 depicted a crescent moon and seven stars on its reverse. Astronomical research has revealed that in the same year a daytime eclipse would have made the Seven Sisters stars visible in the skies above Rome.

Hadrian may have used the event to suggest to the citizens of the empire that his achievements had brought a long period of peace and prosperity which the gods were acknowledging by their display in the heavens. The Pleiades star cluster had two further meanings for the empire: their appearance in springtime signalled to farmers that the time to plant was at hand. Similarly, when the Seven Sisters shone in autumn, harvest time had come around once again. The crescent moon also had a number of layers of symbolic meaning. It appeared, for example, as an indication of purity on the reverse of coins issued when Antoninus Pius deified his wife Faustina in AD 141.

A denarius of Commodus (AD

177-192), struck not long before his assassination, has a cluster of stars surrounding Jupiter on its reverse. The god is naked, brandishes a thunderbolt in one hand and a sceptre in the other, and the legend tells us that he is 'JUPITER, DEFENDER OF THE EMPEROR'S HEALTH'. The stars proclaim the god's astral associations and remind us that it was Jupiter who lit the heavens; and who controlled thunder and lightning. Julian II (AD 360-363) used Jupiter's stars to date his deeds. He was the last non-Christian ruler of the Roman Empire, a dedicated pagan who tried to revive traditional Roman practices and to totally reject Christianity. He frequently sacrificed bulls, as seen on his bronze coin from the Antioch mint which depicts a sacrificial bull. We know that the sacrifice occurred on 4 May, 360 because the precise positions of Venus and Mars (as stars) are indicated on the coin. Alas Julian had little time to put his beliefs into practice. He was killed by a Persian javelin while defending the empire's borders in 363.



The remarkable reverse on this coin of Commodus told the citizens of the empire that he was safely protected by all-powerful Jupiter with his thunderbolts

Turning very briefly to British coins, we can see many references to stars, planets and other celestial bodies on our Celtic issues. The Normans famously marked their successful invasion by weaving the image of an auspicious comet into the Bayeux Tapestry, and by cutting comets and stars into the dies of their silver pennies to celebrate victories and accessions to the throne. Even from as late as the eighteenth and nineteenth century these ancient symbols still turn up on agriculture lead tokens found by 21st-century metal detectorists.

Thanks to TimeLine Auctions and to the Leaden Tokens Telegraph for assistance with illustrations for this feature.

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British Coins in the Napoleonic Wars

In his ongoing guide Ed Archer examines British and Colonial coins in use between 1797 and 1815, an era which started with the wars against Revolutionary France and ended with the Battle of Waterloo. For Britain and its empire it was a time of economic turbulence which was to end with the great recoinage of 1816



George III's reign covers the period 1760 to 1820 and by 1797 Britain had already lost one of its most valued assets, the United States of America. That in itself had created a big hole in the nation's economy, affecting the regular issue of coinage of all types, from copper to gold.

Banknotes

Paper money from the early days of the Revolutionary Wars was issued to

Right: the obverse of a George III penny issued in 1807

save a run on gold, especially from the Bank of England. The first banknote of this era was the famous white fiver which was printed as long ago as 1793. However, in 1797 concerns about the drain on gold bullion led to further issues of banknotes; £2 and £1 notes were issued as replacements for gold coins without the famous guarantee that the bearer was entitled to get the equivalent amount of gold back again. This restriction on banknotes was not rescinded until 1824. However, despite this restriction the public maintained their faith in British banknotes so they did not share the same fate as the French assignats and become worthless.

Gold

Gold did continue to be struck but much of it was required in the shape of gold bullion to support the armies of Britain's principal allies – Russia, Prussia, Austria and Portugal. Guineas worth 21 shillings were struck from 1793 to 1799 and again in 1813. The first variety of this period was the spade guinea of which many were forged, the most basic forgery being the gaming counter that resembles a Spade Guinea, though one had to be rather drunk to be taken in by that forgery! In 1813, the second variety of guinea was introduced. This was known as the military guinea, referring to the shield and garter design on the reverse. The guineas were to be replaced by the sovereign in the great recoinage of the 1820s. After that date guineas were no longer minted.

Very curious gold coins were struck between 1793 and 1815; the first being the half guinea which was

worth 10 shillings and sixpence. Three varieties of the half guinea were struck between 1793 and 1813 making this denomination common. But the half guinea was not the only unusual coin struck in the time of the Napoleonic Wars; there was also the third of a guinea valued at seven shillings. Again many of these were minted and so they are relatively easy to acquire.

Silver

Georgian silver is a fascinating study in itself. There was a severe shortage of silver, with the result that very few silver coins were struck in this period of war. Indeed, it was as a result of the French wars that the metal gradually became worth less than the actual value on the coin.

Spanish Dollars (8 reales) formed the bulk of the Bank of England reserves in 1797 when there was a banking crisis and the public were not permitted to change their notes for gold. Amidst the financial chaos, the Bank of England had to do something, so the dollars were countermarked with a portrait of George III, some of these being small and others larger and octagonal in shape. They were tarified at 4 shillings and ninepence to deter people from melting them down, though sometimes the rise in the price of silver did make melting worthwhile. Half dollars too ended up being countermarked. The supplies of Spanish dollars were supplemented by the occasional seizure of Spanish merchantmen; in addition silver French coins and US dollars also ended up by being counter-stamped.

The 8 reale pieces were counterstruck by a number of

The reverse of a one shilling token of 1811, produced at the Birmingham Mint



A half penny of 1806





companies especially cotton mills in both England and Scotland. These were valued at either four shillings and ninepence or five shillings. Generally these were struck on worn 8 reales pieces that the mill owners could purchase very cheaply, thus the condition of these pieces today is usually fine to poor.

A new approach was tried five years later in 1804 and on this occasion the Bank of England restruck the 8 reales coins as five shilling pieces. On the reverse are the words 'Bank of England, Dollar and five shillings'. The reverse has a nice portrait of George III which was a precursor to the portraits on fine silver coins struck at the end of the Napoleonic Wars.

During the early years of the 19th century many privately struck silver tokens were issued, including the one shilling and ten pence issues from Dublin. Gradually the Bank of England got into the act of issuing token coinage, much of this struck from 1811 onwards. The principal silver tokens that were issued between 1811 and 1815 were the three shillings, the eighteen pence and the ninepence. However, no shillings or sixpences were minted.

From left: the obverse of a cartwheel penny of 1798; trade dollar obverse; reverse of a Leeds shilling of smalpage and lumb; spade guinea of 1793

Copper

Copper coinage of this period forms an interesting field of study commencing with the issue of the massive cartwheel pennies struck in 1797; they were struck at the Soho Works in Birmingham by Matthew Boulton using steam presses. Apart from the method of striking they were unique in being the largest copper coins ever struck in the United Kingdom. The penny was one ounce of pure copper and the two pence was two ounces of pure copper. These were the first pennies and twopences to be struck in George III's reign; they were a reply to the large number of privately issued copper coins. Due to their weight they were unpopular and from the Government's point of view proved to be too expensive. Many of these coins ended up by being hoarded as kitchen weights with the face of the unpopular George III often being defaced.

New halfpennies and farthings were produced two years later again at the Soho Works in Birmingham by Mathew Boulton's firm. The same firm was engaged in 1806 to produce new pennies, halfpennies and farthings. The 1806 copper coins were considerably



smaller than those produced in 1797 and 1799, reflecting the continued slide of the British economy. This was bound to happen given that the wars between Britain and France had a global impact.

Meanwhile, local copper currency was still being struck all over Britain, some by grocers and some by industrial works and even some by private individuals to ease the shortage of copper coins.

If the extensive nature of the wars was not enough, British trade with Europe had slumped immeasurably due to the imposition by Napoleon of the Continental system across Europe. Since France controlled most of Europe by 1806, it was not surprising that the British Economy was in such a poor shape. Then there was the cost of subsidising Britain's European allies, especially Russia, to the extent that at one point Britain only had about £360,000 in the Bank of England. Therefore the victory at Waterloo was vital for Britain, enabling trade to be resumed with Europe and the striking of a brand new set of coins from 1816 onwards that reflected Britain's rebirth as the economic powerhouse of the world.

From left: the reverse of a one shilling and sixpence token of 1812; the reverse





INTERACTIVE GALLERIES

Tap the coin to flip it over

The kingdom in the sun

The Norman Conquest that followed the Battle of Hastings is one of those historical events that most British people are entirely familiar with. Perhaps less known are the exploits of William the Conqueror's contemporaries in other parts of Europe, as Richard Kelleher explains in his guide to coins of Norman Sicily and south Italy

Norman adventurers were influential in the politics of the Mediterranean, most notably in southern Italy and Sicily. The first Normans arrived there in around 1030 as mercenaries brought in to fight in the wars between Italian, Byzantine and Arab rulers. Sicily and southern Italy were frontier regions where widely diverse cultures lived in close proximity. There was a strong Byzantine legacy in Sicily, Calabria, Apulia and Naples. The duchy of Benevento in southern Italy had been established by the Lombards (a Germanic people) and gave rise to the duchy of Salerno.

The key figure in the Norman success was Tancred de Hauteville. This minor noble had twelve sons by two wives and two of them are of special significance. Tancred's son Humphrey became count of Apulia with his half-brother Robert Guiscard (meaning 'the crafty'), succeeding him in 1057. Two years later, Robert obtained papal patronage from Pope Nicholas II (1058-61) legitimising the Norman conquests in Southern Italy. By 1072 Robert had conquered Calabria and driven the Muslims from most of Sicily, appointing his younger brother Roger I as count of Calabria and Sicily. By the end of the 1070s, Robert was one of the most powerful rulers in Italy. He named his second son Roger Borsa as his successor, and when Robert died in 1085, Roger became the most powerful Norman ruler in the Italian south. Borsa's uncle Roger I grew increasingly powerful in this period. Roger I died in 1101 and after his son Simon's short reign Roger II became count, and later king, of Sicily. Another death in the family (of a cousin) left him in control of the entire mainland.

He was crowned king in Palermo on Christmas day 1130. As in England the Norman coinage in southern Italy and Sicily began as a continuation of the pre-existing system. At Salerno on

Coins such as these remind us of the influence of the Normans throughout Europe and not just on our own shores

the mainland, the main coin types were of gold and copper. The gold coins produced under the Normans were known as *taris* or *tareni* and were copies of tenth-century Fatimid quarter-dinars which circulated in Sicily (illustrated, top). Over time the gold coins were adapted; they were 16ct gold compared with the 24ct Fatimid coins of Sicily, and under Roger I the design began to move away from the Arab style adding a tau (T-shaped cross). Roger II became king in 1130 and soon began to strike a new type of 'Christian' *tarì* in Sicily that identified him on the obverse by his new title, 'al-malik' or 'king', and carried on the reverse a Greek cross with the inscription IC XC NI KA in the angles, meaning 'Jesus Christ victor'.

On the mainland the gold coins were accompanied by a wide range of copper *follari* with many different designs. This style of coin had been produced by the Lombard princes of Salerno. One of the more spectacular of these was a *trifollaro* minted by Roger I c.1098-1101. The type mixes martial and religious imagery depicting the count on horseback on the obverse and the Virgin and Child on the reverse (illustrated above).

Mints at Palermo and Messina operated with Arabic workmen thus the legends and Hijra dates allow close dating of the coins. Roger's principal legacy is that he succeeded in bringing the various states of Sicily and southern Italy together as a single political unit, governed after his death in 1154 by his descendants for a further forty years, until the German Emperor Henry VI deposed the last Norman king, William III, in 1194

The Normans were a major influence in Europe and the eastern Mediterranean in the centuries either side of AD 1000. Their accomplishments in military matters were accompanied by those in Romanesque architecture (seen in cathedrals and castles across their lands), in intellectual pursuits and in music. They were an adaptive people, and nowhere was this more visible than in southern Italy. In the coinage this flexibility – witnessed in many aspects of their interaction with their subjects – was striking. They took over pre-existing monetary systems and really only altered things gradually as required by trade concerns or the sensibilities of the church. This pragmatism ensured their integration into the lands they colonised so that each new state, from England to the Holy Land, developed a strikingly different character.

FURTHER READING

Grierson, P. 'The coinages of Norman Apulia and Sicily in their international setting', *Anglo-Norman Studies 15*, Boydell Press 1993, 117-32.

Grierson, P. and Travaini, L. *Medieval European Coinage 14, Italy (III) (South Italy, Sicily, Sardinia)*, Cambridge University Press, 1998.

Collectors' Coins - Decimal Issues of the United Kingdom

By Chris Henry Perkins

(Rotographic International, 2015)

ISBN: 978-0-948964-60-2

Formerly titled *Check Your Change*, this catalogue of UK decimal coinage is perfect for the beginner, casual collector, or keen numismatist who may specialise in older coins but still likes to keep abreast of more modern developments.

According to author Chris Perkins, there is a growing interest in 'checking your change', thanks to the increasing number of commemorative coins in circulation, such as the ambitious London 2012 Olympics 50p series, and news stories of seemingly innocuous 2p pieces going for hundreds on internet auctions sites (see page 95 of this very issue for one example).

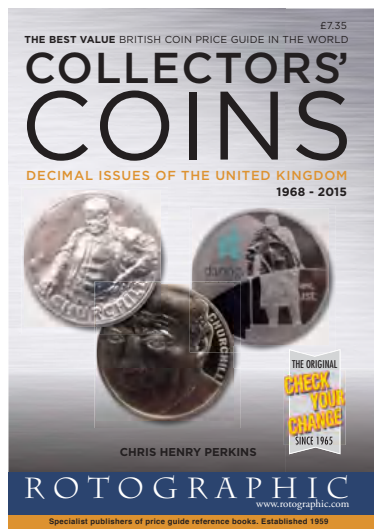
Perkins is aiming to meet this growing demand for more knowledge about the coins in our pockets with this new edition, which follows a similar format to the author's other popular catalogues. Along with colour images of the majority of the coins, readers are informed of the reverse and obverse text and designs, the name of the designer, the number of pieces issued and, most importantly, the value in three different conditions.

What makes the publication more than just a standard catalogue are the useful introductions to each denomination, which answer the vital questions 'Which are hard to find?' and 'What's currently legal tender?', putting the coins into perspective for those of us who browse our change and cutting through the myths and rumours often associated with modern rarities. 'Info' and 'Alert' boxes dotted throughout the catalogue also add some context to the listings, giving collectors more ammunition to avoid buying or selling for the wrong price.

Despite the addition of facts and figures, some collectors will skip straight to the values of their own coins and the valuations in the catalogue are certainly conservative; a good thing when compared to many other catalogues which nudge their prices too high, giving collectors false hope. The values are produced using the prices offered by online dealers, online auctions, dealer sales lists, live-auction catalogues, and 'other sources'.

So which coins would you check first? We skipped straight to the Olympic 50p pieces to discover that most are valued at £1 in uncirculated condition – not a bad mark-up – and the 50p showing Triathlon silhouettes, issued in 2011, is a little more valuable at £5.50 in used condition.

With more and more people stopping to look at their change in shops, pubs and supermarkets, this new edition, also available as an e-book, is a welcome addition to the coin collectors' library.



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Pakistan one rupee 1947 KGV note



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Germany 20 Reichsmark 1924-1935 VF

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Coins on a budget

This month's bargain coin is a medieval silver penny of Edward I, picked up at an antique and collectors fair for £13, writes Ed Archer.

Edward I pennies were literally struck in their millions to finance wars against the Welsh and Scots, not to mention the wars in Flanders. Nevertheless the coins were produced using good sterling silver, struck to the .927 standard which is still used today. They were the best silver coins in all of Europe at that time; no wonder the Flemish often made imitations of them to fool unwary traders.

The reverse shows a long cross splitting the coin into four segments. The edges of the cross extend to the very edge of the coin to discourage clipping. The inscription round the edge of the coin reads 'Civitas Cantor' which translates from the Latin as the 'City of Canterbury', a mint controlled by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

On the obverse is the crowned head of Edward I, and around the edge of this side of the coin are the words 'Edwar Dns Angl Hyb'; these shortened Latin words translate as 'Edward Lord of England and Ireland'. The style of lettering indicates that this coin is a rarer type 9 coin of Edward I – it pays to look carefully at the inscription while browsing coins, as with a bit of knowledge you can pick up a real bargain.

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Reign of terror in the Congo

In the never ending output of new postage stamps you sometimes encounter issues of exceptional interest. This is certainly true for a 25-krona stamp released by the Faroe Islands on 24 September, 2014 writes Christer Brunström

The stamp commemorates the 1904 Casement Report and Daniel J. Danielsen (1871-1916), a Faroese preacher and missionary.

The background to this stamp is really interesting. A few years ago, Faroese local historian Óli Jacobsen was asked by a local newspaper to write a series of articles about people buried in Tórshavn's Old Cemetery. His most remarkable story was devoted to a man called Daniel J. Danielsen and it also has a strong British connection.

After a period of juvenile rebellion, young Daniel moved to Great Britain where he discovered the Christian faith. He then trained as a preacher.

In 1901, he was sent to Balolo in the Congo Free State to serve as a missionary. His duties also included working on the steam paddle steamer *Pioneer* which was used for the transportation of many different goods. Danielsen was not only the captain of the ship but also the engineer.



The new Faroese stamp (above left) recognises the contribution of preacher and missionary Daniel J. Danielsen, who championed the cause of the people of the Congo Free State



during the king's rule of the Congo Free State.

Edmund D. Morel (1873-1924) was in the employ of a Liverpool-based shipping company which held a very lucrative contract with the Free State. Morel was fluent in French and frequently visited Antwerp to oversee the unloading of the company's ships. He noted that the vessels arrived with huge cargoes of ivory, rubber and other valuable commodities but on the return journey to the Congo they only carried soldiers, arms and other military equipment. He realised that the economic activities in the Congo Free State could only exist on slave labour.

King Leopold and his associates, of course, claimed that their motives were

Daniel Danielsen who also served as Casement's personal assistant. During their journey, Danielsen took a large number of photographs of mutilated Congolese men and women. Strangely enough, other people have been credited with these photographs. Danielsen is not even mentioned in Hochschild's book.

Casement then wrote the report which revealed the atrocities committed against the Congolese people. Danielsen returned to Britain where he tried to convince his missionary society to join the campaign against Leopold's rule of the Congo Free State. When it hesitated, Danielsen started his own campaign in Scotland travelling all over the country showing his photos and talking about his experiences.

The campaign was supported by numerous famous people including Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Mark Twain. It resulted in the Belgian government taking over the Congo Free State in 1908, making it a Belgian colony.

His mission accomplished, Danielsen returned to the Faroes where he became one of the founders of the Plymouth Brethren which today is the islands' largest free church.

Both Roger Casement and Daniel J. Danielsen are shown on the new Faroese stamp. Superimposed on a map of the Congo are the two paddle steamers: the *Pioneer* at the top and the *Henry Reed* at the bottom.

The new Faroese stamp has certainly helped give Daniel J. Danielsen credit for his hard work for the people of the Congo.

There are reports indicating that some five to eight million Congolese died during King Leopold's rule of the Congo Free State

The Congo Free State had been established in 1885 and this huge area was more or less the personal property of King Leopold II of Belgium. He became extremely wealthy and how this came about is explained in the book *King Leopold's Ghost* (1998) by American historian Adam Hochschild. In his foreword he writes that a little more than 100 years ago the killing of the Congolese people reached the dimensions of the Holocaust. There are reports indicating that some five to eight million Congolese died

altruistic and that they were bringing education and culture to the Congolese. Numerous missionary societies were invited to operate in the country.

Morel's revelations about the disgraceful state of affairs in the Congo caused great concern in Europe and America. The British government decided to launch a thorough investigation. The task went to Irishman Roger Casement (1864-1916), the British consul in Boma, Congo. In 1903, Casement began his journey on board the paddle steamer *Henry Reed*. The captain was

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